AUGUST 1994

The RING®

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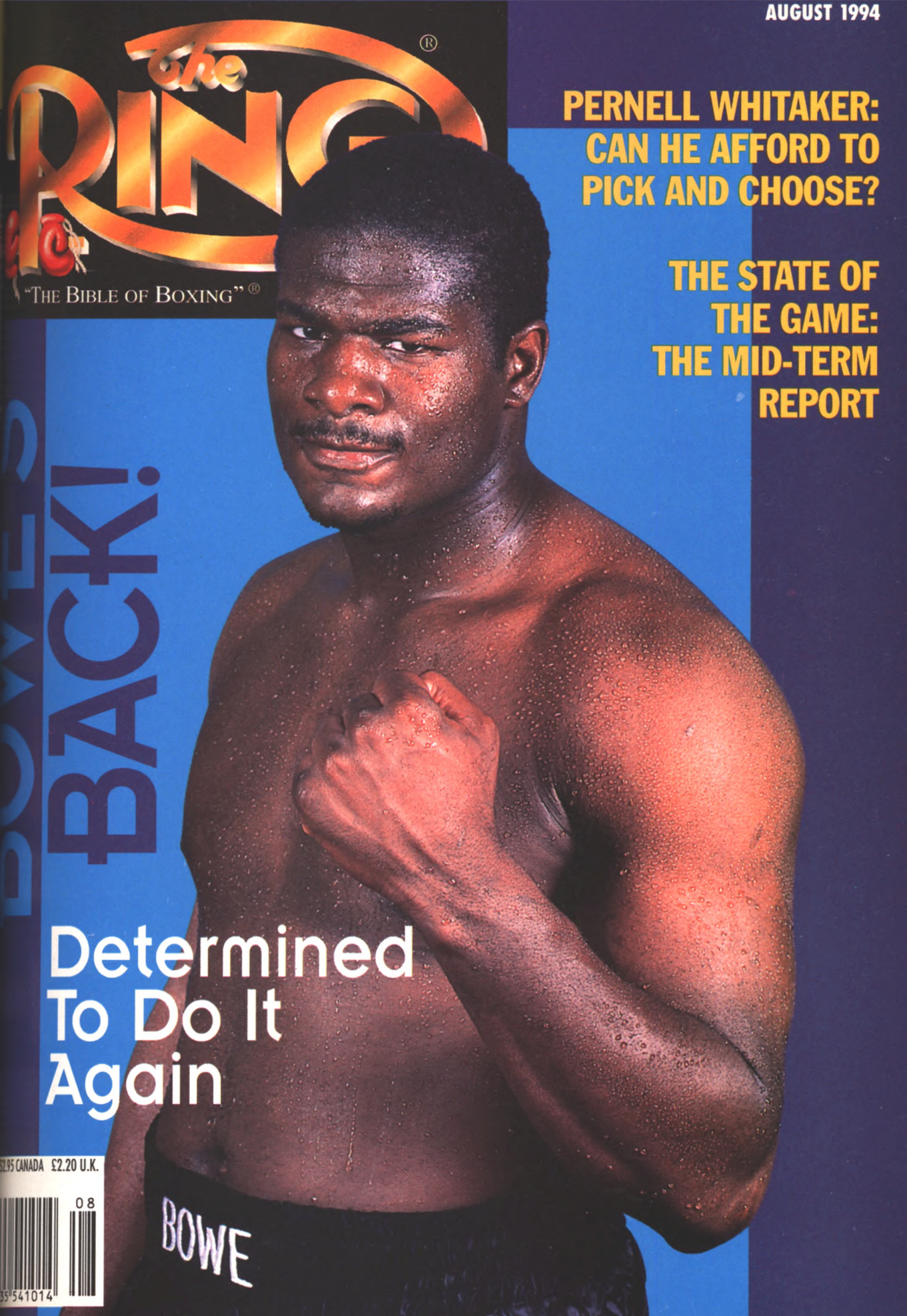
PERNELL WHITAKER: CAN HE AFFORD TO PICK AND CHOOSE?

THE STATE OF THE GAME: THE MID-TERM REPORT

BOWE BACK!

Determined To Do It Again



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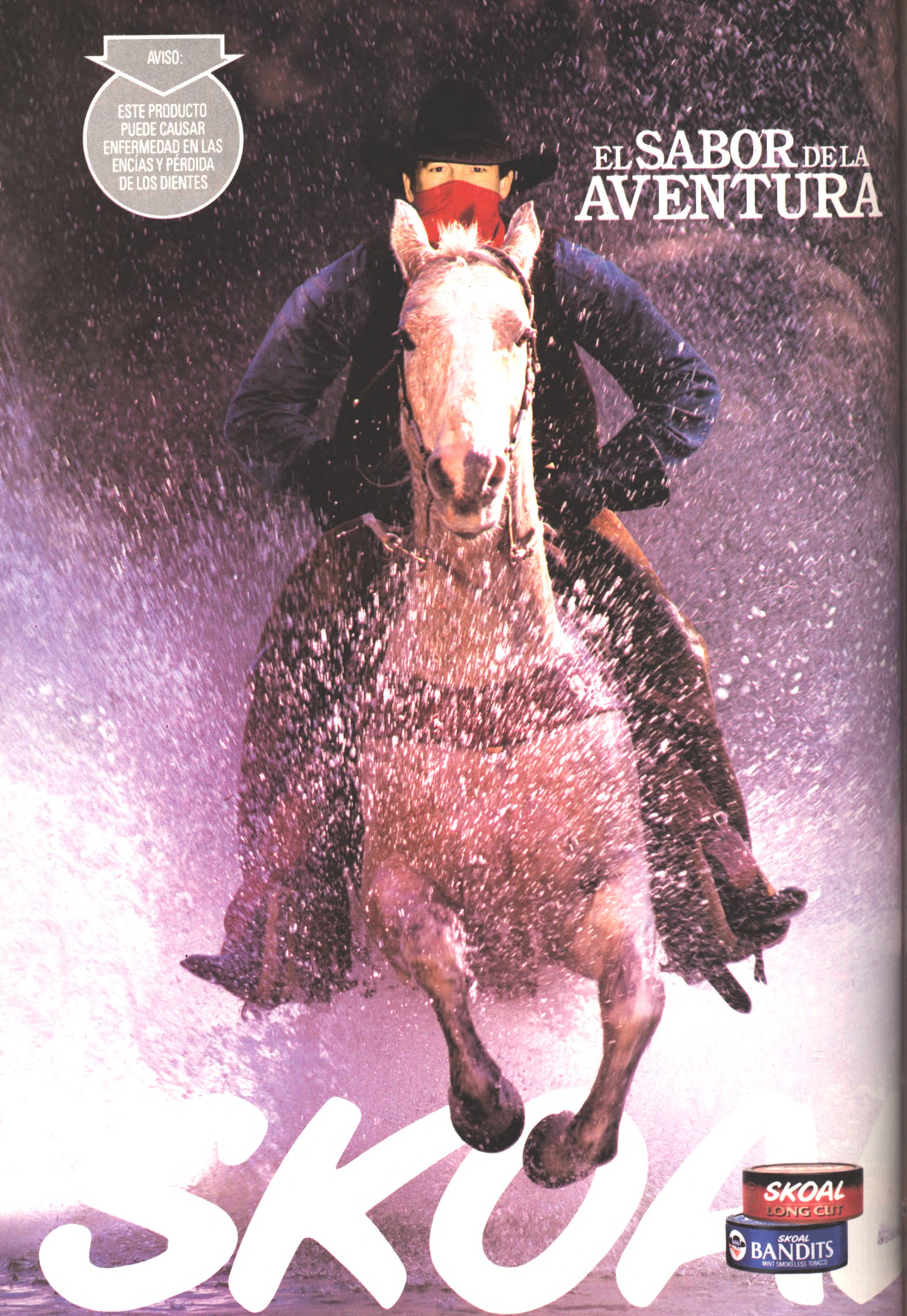
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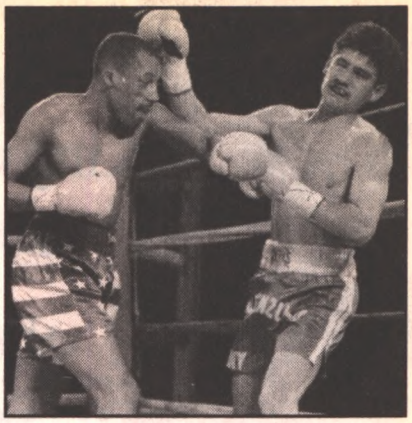

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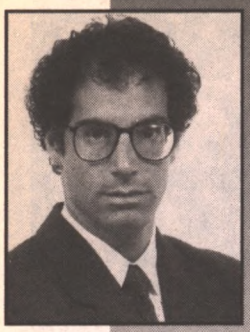

Ringside

As the editor of THE RING, I analyze and argue boxing issues every day. Most of my opinions are formed within the parameters of a particular perspective. Either I consider a question as a fan (thus representing most of our readers), or as a supposedly savvy expert. There can be a big difference. For example, when Riddick Bowe was defending the heavyweight title against Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson, Farhood the Fan was furious. Like everyone else, I wanted competitive title fights, if not an immediate unification between "Big Daddy" and Lennox Lewis. But Farhood the Insider couldn't help but admire the acumen of manager Rock Newman, who made his fighter millions of dollars for a pair of defenses against pushovers. After all, wasn't it Newman's job to secure high purses for low-risk fights?

Consider the case of IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales. For the last few years I've included the marvelously skilled counterpuncher in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings. I've also bemoaned the fact that he's never attempted to unify the title. Among today's most attractive potential matchups is Canizales vs. WBA champion Junior Jones. Farhood the Fan would prefer that fight to just about any other. But Farhood the Insider wonders what he'd do if he managed Canizales. The Texan has reigned for six years and seems sure to break Manuel Ortiz' division record for most consecutive successful defenses. Maybe he's never enjoyed the kind of paydays accorded big-name heavyweights like Bowe and Evander Holyfield, or even junior flyweights like Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez. But when totaled, Canizales' $100,000 purses don't seem so bad. A unification vs. Jones would presumably bring him three or four times his regular paycheck. Canizales, however, could lose. Is it worth the risk? Depends on your perspective.

Almost everyone cites the proliferation of titles as one of boxing's most serious ills. Indeed, how can you argue that three champions per division is better than one? I'll tell you how: What if you manage or promote a world champion like Julio Borboa? Or Genaro Hernandez? Or Tracy Patterson? These fighters may or may not be the best in their respective divisions. In other words, if there were one champion per division, they might be fighting for one-tenth of what they're currently earning. Do 17 divisions and 51 world champions mean added chaos or added opportunity? Depends on your perspective.

You're lucky; you're fans, first, last, and always, and even if you care about boxing's big picture, your primary concern will always be the quality of the fights you're watching. It's not that simple for me. There are lots of angles to consider, lots of points of view.

But now that I think about it, if the perspective of an insider means endorsing mismatches like Bowe-Dokes and Bowe-Ferguson, accepting Canizales' failure to face the best available competition, and equating 51 world champions to added opportunity, I'd rather be a fan.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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The RING

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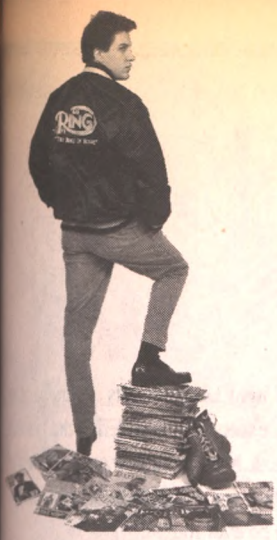

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Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

THE BEST FIGHTERS ...

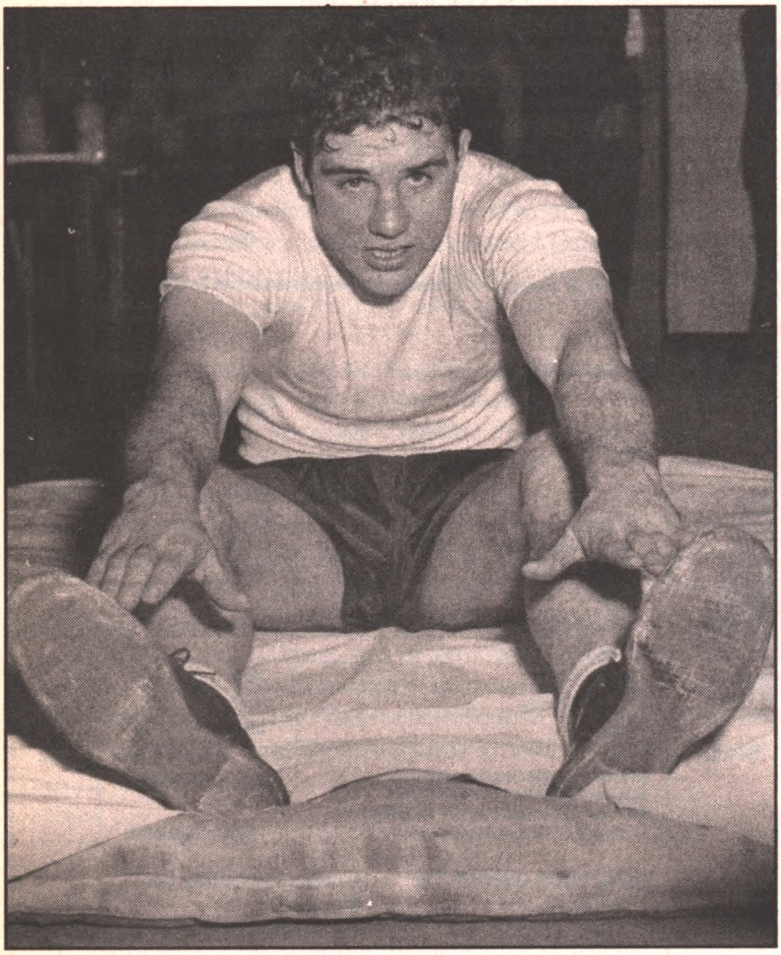
Your exclusion of my father, Billy Conn, from the list of the top five light heavyweights is very puzzling ("Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time," May 1994), especially considering the fact that most boxing writers and historians, as well as anyone who saw him fight, rank him as the best or second-best of all-time. This includes such legendary trainers as Ray Arcel and Eddie Futch. Joe Louis himself often said my father was the greatest light heavyweight he ever saw and the greatest fighter he ever fought.

A fighter's true greatness should not be based on how many times he defended the title, but rather on his overall career and the quality of his opponents. My father's record speaks for itself. His career spanned four weight divisions, and almost one-third of his fights came against world champions. During one stretch he fought 11 world champions in 21 fights and beat all of them but Louis. And that was before the age of 23. He scored victories over so many great champions, including Fred Apostoli, Solly Krieger, Tony Zale, and Teddy Yarosz.

Bob Foster's contention that he was the greatest light heavyweight champion is ludicrous. He had only one real asset—a big punch. Foster lacked the intangibles that make a great fighter—heart, durability, resiliency, defensive technique. My father had them in abundance. In addition, my father's record against heavyweights was outstanding, while Foster's was pitiful. He collapsed like a deck of cards every time he fought one. Often fighting at a great weight disadvantage, my father beat such hard punchers as Lee Savold and Bob Pastor. Can you imagine Foster outboxing and outslugging Joe Louis for 13 rounds? I can't.

Keep in mind my father's career was interrupted in his prime by World War II. Who knows how great his record would have been without that layoff.

BILLY CONN JR.
Pittsburgh, PA



Conn: The best Louis ever faced

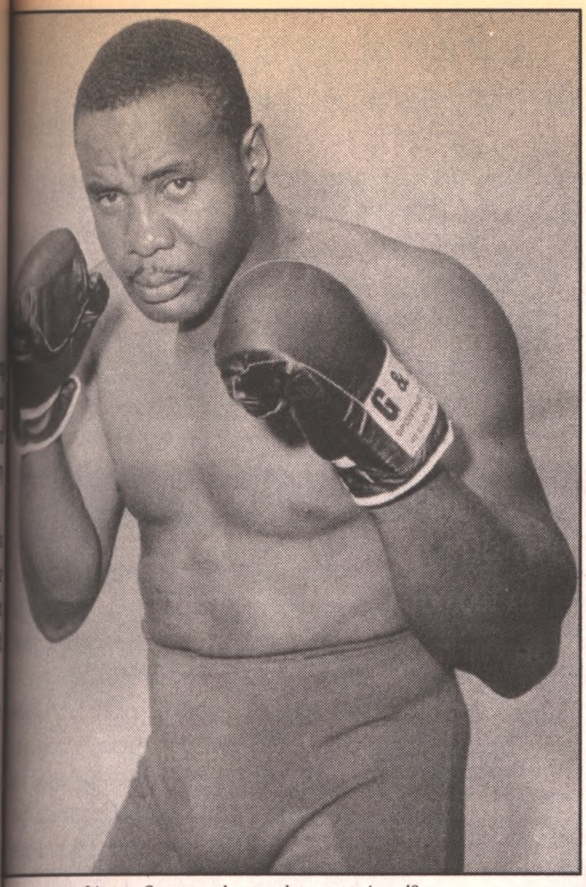
After reading your division-by-division analysis of the greatest fighters of all-time, I have one argument: Mike Tyson should be rated ahead of Jack Johnson and Jack Dempsey.

- Tyson made more defenses.
- Compared to the primitive styles of Johnson and Dempsey, Tyson's skills and power were simply superior.
- Tyson fought nine world champions and knocked out six of them.
- Tyson lost only once, compared to six defeats suffered by Dempsey and 10 by Johnson.

Tyson will be back. He'll regain the title, and his reputation will grow even more.

ALBERTO VELEZ
Elizabeth, NJ

Your ratings of Muhammad Ali as the greatest heavyweight of all-time and Sonny Liston as the most overrated struck me as being strange. I'm originally from Philadelphia, and I not only saw Liston fight, but watched him train. Very few people, if



Liston: Overrated or underappreciated?

respected Liston as a person, but those who knew anything at all about ng were in awe of his talent as a fighter.

You said Liston's reign was particularly undistinguished and there were exceptional heavyweights around when he was fighting. I remember the erts praising Floyd Patterson as the greatest. Liston also knocked out two ters nobody wanted to face, Cleveland Williams and Wayne Bethea. ton never ducked anyone.

Both of Liston's losses to Muhammad Ali were less than real. He quit in first fight, claiming his shoulder hurt. In the rematch, the fighter who Cleveland Williams' best punches was kayoed by a powderpuff cher.

Liston had the best jab I've ever seen. It was harder than the erpunches of most heavyweights. In fact, it was often too good because would knock his opponent too far out of range to follow up with his right. ton fought behind his jab and was defensively sound. For a big man of era, he was very well-rounded.

I don't buy Ali being the greatest of all-time. I don't think Liston was ter, but I sure don't agree he was the most overrated.

CHARD BUDMAN
dy Hook, CT

I thoroughly enjoyed your article on the greatest fighters of all-time. I eed with most of the selections, but strongly disagreed on two weight sses.

At junior welterweight, there is no way Julio Cesar Chavez was better an Aaron Pryor. For a few years in the early-'80s Pryor was invincible. Pryor would have destroyed Chavez in easier fashion than he kayoed Alexis Arguello.

At heavyweight, how the heck do you rate Muhammad Ali ahead of Joe Louis? Louis held the title for 11 years and fought everybody who came his way. Louis was no Sonny Liston or George Foreman. He would have caught up with the running Ali the way he caught up with Billy Conn. The way Ali kept his hands low, Louis would have knocked him out cold.

DAVID MAGNUSSON
Hialeah, FL

Your section on the greatest fighters of all-time raised some interesting questions. In the most recent weight divisions, we find names like Chong Pal Park, Koichi Wajima, Sergio Palma, Sung Kil Moon, Myung Woo Yuh, and Phalan Lukmingkwan listed as all-time greats. Are these guys really Hall of Fame material?

Comparing your lists with those compiled by Nat Fleischer in 1958, I found some noticeable differences. Kid McCoy, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, the original Joe Walcott, Mysterious Billy Smith, and Tommy Ryan were at the top of Nat's lists, but you never mentioned them. I'm quite certain another overlooked fighter, Bob Fitzsimmons, could have knocked out almost all of your "all-time great" cruiserweights and super middleweights.

*Fitzsimmons: Belongs in **some** division's top five*

Regarding modern-day fighters, I believe you owe more credit to Michael Spinks and Pernell Whitaker. Spinks was dominant at light heavy, and it took a prime Mike Tyson to make him look bad. And I think Whitaker would have driven Roberto Duran into a disqualification surrender.

SHERMAN LAMBERT
Pacific Palisades, CA ■

Round One

HELL HATH NO FURY ...

And you thought Julio Cesar Chavez gave Greg Haugen a tough time.

In April, Haugen needed to summon all of his defensive skills in an unscheduled bout vs. his ex-wife. According to police, Karen Haugen drove her BMW into Haugen's garage door, sideswiped a truck, then backed up and allegedly tried to run over her former husband who was with his girlfriend at his home in Henderson, Nevada. She then drove the car onto the front lawn before crashing into the kitchen.

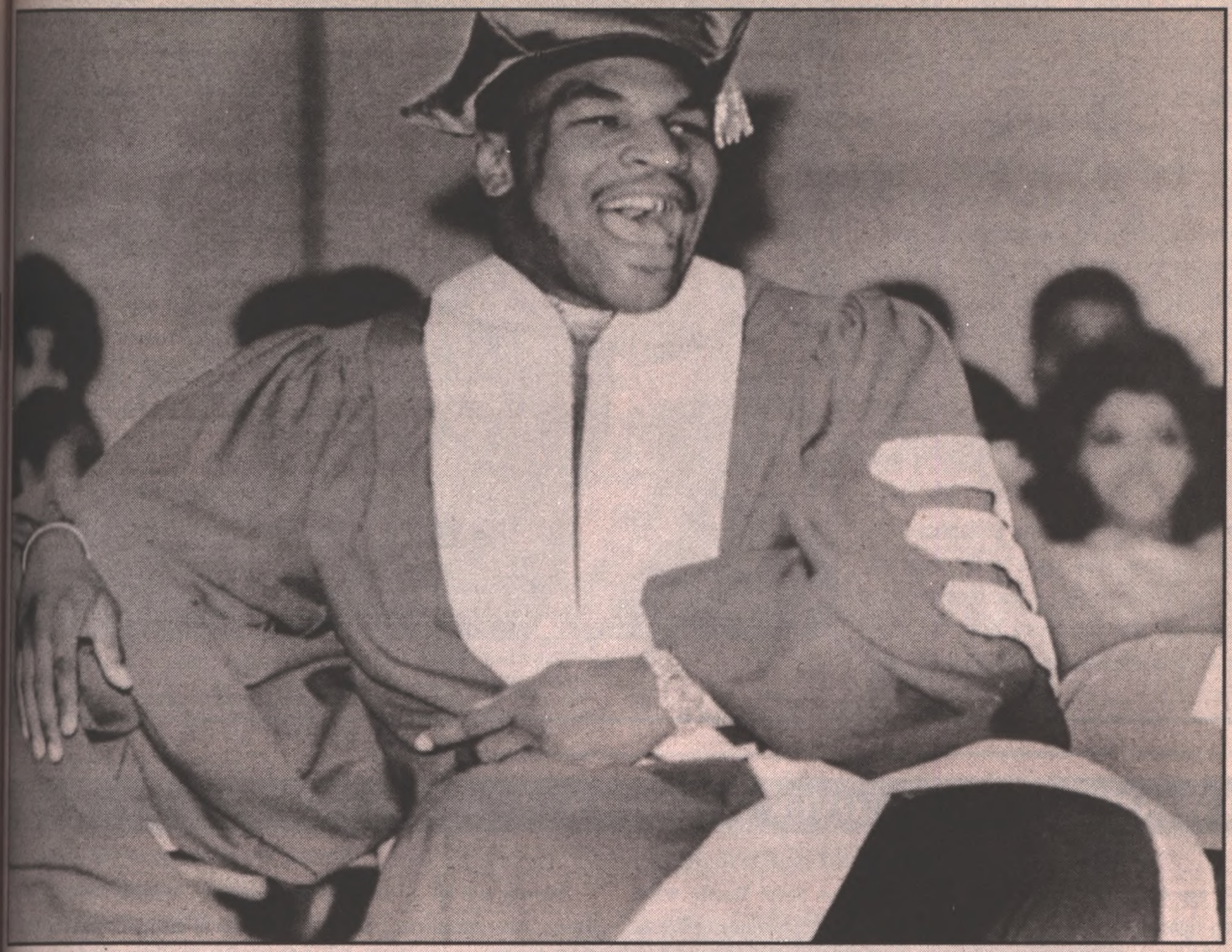
At the start of round two, she left the car and, a gun in hand, approached Haugen. After a brief struggle, Haugen disarmed her.

Karen Haugen was arrested and charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

"She's been sick for a while," said Haugen. "She needs treatment. She's on drugs."

Karen and Greg Haugen in 1990

THE 10 QUESTIONS MIKE TYSON *THOUGHT* HE'D FIND ON HIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST



Tyson: Trick questions?

10. If Evander Holyfield makes $24-million in three fights and Riddick Bowe makes $14-million in two fights, how much will they make if they fight each other?

9. Don King is to Jose Sulaiman as Dan Duva is to A) Kathy Duva; B) Lou Duva; C) Shelly Finkel; D) The Marquis of Queensbury

8. Bill Cayton is a boxing manager. He once managed the heavyweight champion of the world. Among his current fighters are Tommy Morrison, Jeremy Williams, and Vinny Pazienza. From this passage we can deduce that A) Cayton is a serial killer; B) Cayton is the Antichrist; C) Cayton tried to poison Hillary Rodham Clinton; D) none of the above

7. True or false: If a promoter has four options on a newly crowned champion, he owns the rights to that fighter's first-born son.

6. The laws of physics tell us that the power of your punch is determined by A) the formula *mass x acceleration = force*; B) how bad your intentions are; C) how many quarters you're palming; D) whether Panama Lewis gloved you up or not

5. If Tony Tubbs begins training at 270 pounds, how much does he have to reduce to enter the ring resembling a professional fighter?

4. If a split decision means two judges voted for one fighter and the third judge scored for the other fighter, what the hell is a majority draw?

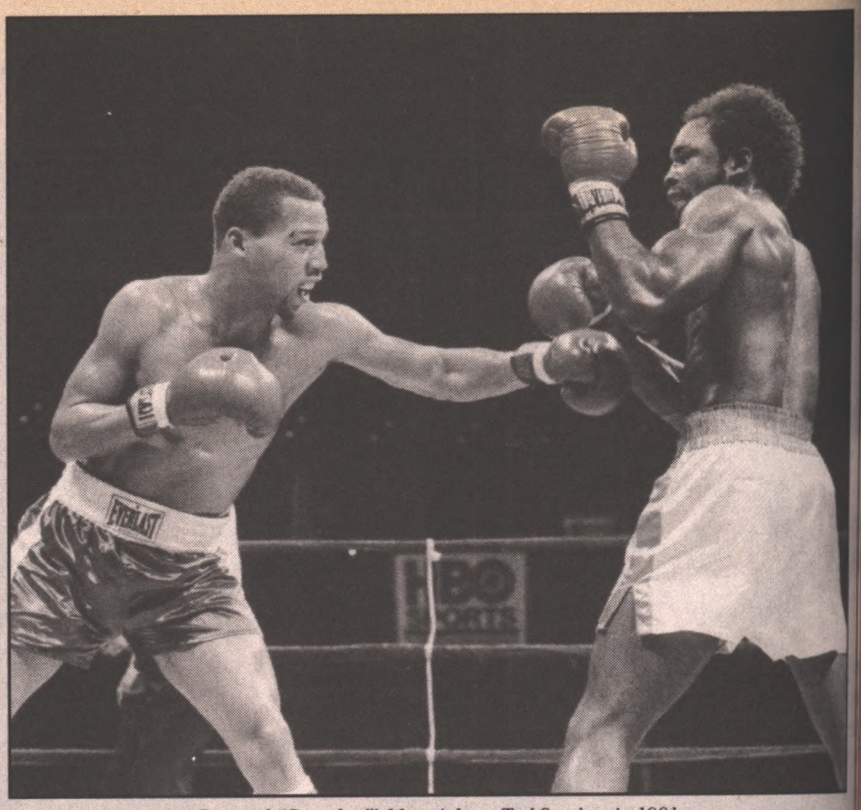
3. Choose the word (or words) that is most closely associated with *pugilista dementia*: A) punching a hole in the wall of your dressing room; B) punchdrunkeness; C) public drunkeness; D) the number-four rated bantamweight in Italy

2. A middleweight weighs more than a junior middleweight, and a super middleweight weighs more than a middleweight. Does this hold true if the middleweight is Roberto Duran?

1. If the ratings chairman of an alphabet organization throws darts at the names of 20 heavyweights, how many different top 10s can he produce?

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

According to Lindy Lindell in the newsletter *Flash*, former middleweight contender **Bernard "Superbad" Mays**, 33, died of complications brought on by alcoholism. A legend in the gyms of Detroit, Mays never realized his potential. Wrote Lindell, "Word on the street is that he weighed less than 100 pounds shortly before his death" ... **Bonecrusher Smith**, 41, was denied a license to box unbeaten European champion **Henry Akinwande** in England. Smith failed his medical exam ... It now seems certain **Michael Bentt**, who was kayoed by **Herbie Hide** in March, will retire. "My mind's pretty much made up," the 28-year-old heavyweight told New York *Daily News* boxing writer Michael Katz. "I think it's time to tackle some books." After losing to Hide in London, Bentt collapsed in his dressing room, and again on the plane ride home. A British doctor had recommended retirement after diagnosing Bentt was losing brain cells at the rate of a man twice his age.



Bernard "Superbad" Mays jabs at Ted Sanders in 1981

"I WAS BLEEDING ALL OVER THE PLACE"

At age 46, former junior welterweight champion Saoul Mamby wants to keep fighting. Maybe the state commissions should continue to license him; in March, he proved he's still tough enough to survive a gunshot.

Mamby: Shot during infighting

Mamby and his 21-year-old son, Saoul Jr., were en route to the gym when a man intentionally blocked their path at a subway token booth near the fighter's home in the Bronx. After the man cursed the Mambys, a fight broke out.

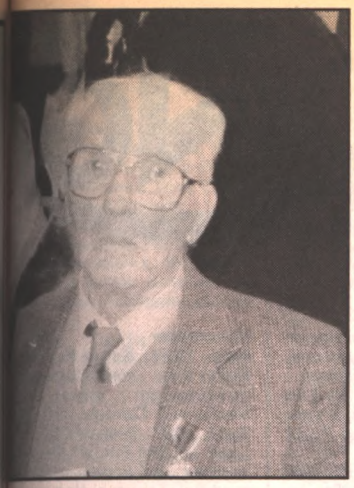
"My son starts beating the guy up," recalled Mamby, "when the guy pulls out a nine-millimeter handgun. My son had gotten up, and the guy was gonna shoot him in the back. I moved forward and went at him, and the gun went off at point-blank range. The bullet went right through my shoulder, through the muscle. It didn't hit a bone or arteries. I ran a couple of blocks to the hospital. I was bleeding all over the place."

Mamby lost more than a liter of blood, and doctors initially thought he'd need a transfusion. But he recovered quickly and was released the next day. (As we went to press, no arrests had been made.)

"The hole where the bullet went in is already closed; the doctor was impressed," said Mamby.

In mid-April, Mamby visited his sister in Zimbabwe. Rest and relaxation? "Who knows," he told THE RING the night before his departure. "If I feel better, maybe I'll take a fight while I'm over there."

—Steve Farhood



Carr nears 100

ND THIS NOTE FROM ILLARD SCOTT ...

At 91, Jack Sharkey, who will be inducted the International Boxing Hall of Fame in e, is the oldest living former world champion. ile we can't be sure, we're willing to bet Paul ." Carr is the oldest former manager of a rld champion. On June 20, Carr will turn 100.

Carr was born in Italy and, at age 10, settled his family in Buffalo, New York. He boxed e armed forces and served during World War Soon after, he turned to managing. Among his ters was Buffalo's Jimmy Slattery, who won world light heavyweight title in 1930, and ny Goodrich, who succeeded Benny Leonard orld lightweight champion in 1925.

"My uncle managed fighters until the mid- ," said Tom Carr. "Then he worked as a city ployee in Buffalo. But he never lost his love boxing. And he always kept himself in good pe and has all his marbles. I guess that's how made it to 100."

That, and the fact that he never had to riate with Don King.

—Steve Farhood

THE PUNCHLINE

Vinny Pazienza on his upcoming bout vs. Roberto Duran: "I didn't want to fight Duran. I'm not into beating 45-year-old men, or however old he is. [Duran turns 43 on June 16.] But he went on TV, mouthing off about me. He disrespected me, and I don't think I deserve that. He can stick that legend stuff where the sun don't shine."

THE *REAL* SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

Imagine scoring a one-punch knockout and getting school credit for it. There's only one place that can happen—at Westchester State Community College in Valhalla, New York, where Steve Acunto has been teaching a course in boxing for 14 years.

There are about 40 U.S. colleges with boxing teams, but Acunto's class is unique. And so is Acunto. The 75-year-old goodwill ambassador, who, along with Rocky Marciano founded the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing in 1969, says, "Boxing is too wonderful a game to be destroyed. I'm a crusader; my whole life has been dedicated to cleaning up the sport."

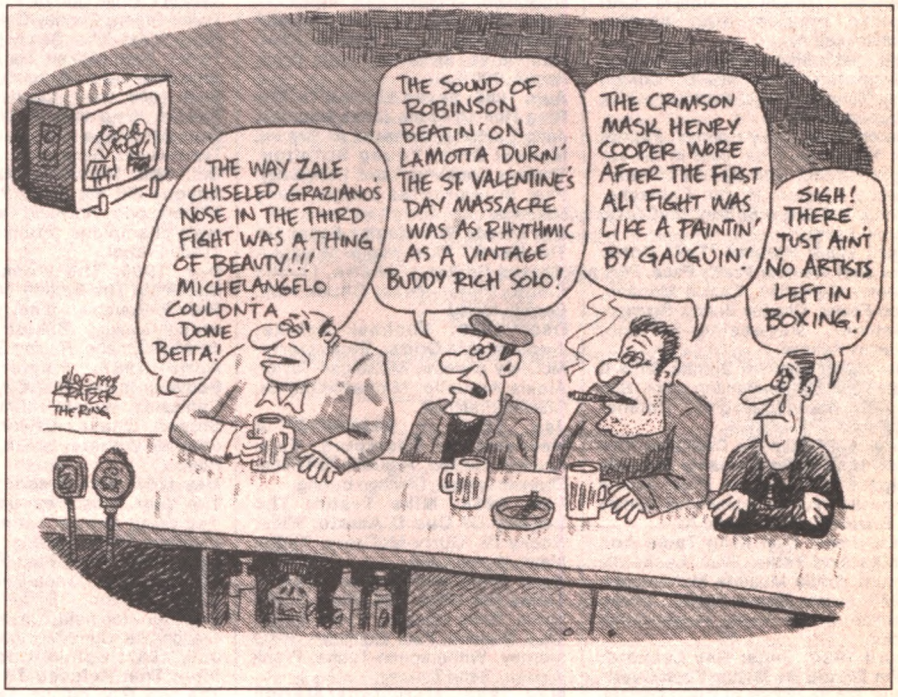
Acunto has been a boxing judge, state inspector, and deputy commissioner. He's made an instructional film, hosted radio and television shows, and testified before Congress on four different occasions. But his love of the game is never more evident than when he's teaching a college student how to defend himself.

Acunto: Professor of pugilism

Acunto certainly knows how to defend the Sweet Science. He's a refreshing reminder that there's more to boxing than money.

Ain't that right, teach?

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

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July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

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Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

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May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

August 1986

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

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Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II*.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-[illegible] heavyweight ratings, [illegible] MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

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Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimous! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter. Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Spinks year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, knockout artists.

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Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Pint-Sized Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, [illegible] Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next Fight. Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Fights. Great Fighters (color). Plus: [illegible] Harding, Evander Holyfield, [illegible] Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

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1991: **Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color).** Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Alfredo Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

1991: **Tyson's Title Hopes: He Isn't What He Used To Be...But It's Gonna Matter.** Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Monroe, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Chavez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

1991: **A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go?** Plus: Sterling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave Tiberi-Kelley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Duva Brothers, Luther McCarty, ethnic nicknames, computer light heavyweight tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Graziano (color).

1991: **Mike Tyson's Fight For Fitness: Will November 8 Be His Retirement?** Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

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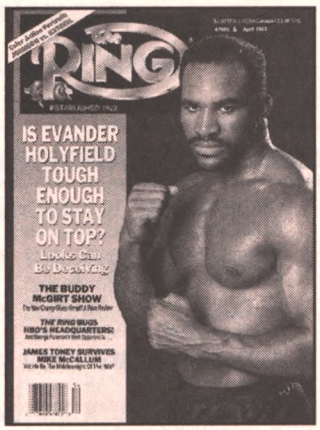

April 1992

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

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Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State of the Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl at the Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Mexico, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

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The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
April 15, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Razor Ruddock

Charles Williams

Jake Rodriguez

Tracy Patterson

Julio Gervacio

Melchor Cob Castro

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Atlanta, GA *30-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
3. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *24-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *34-0*
5. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *24-5*
6. **RAZOR RUDDOCK** — Ft. Lauderdale, FL *29-4-1*
7. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
8. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *60-4*
9. **PHIL JACKSON** — Miami, FL *30-1*
10. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH *13-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *40-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *40-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *21-2-1*
5. **BOBBY CZYZ** — Montgomery, NJ *42-5*
6. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
7. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
8. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *20-4-1*
9. **CHEMAK SALETA** — Poland *18-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *26-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *23-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *46-2-1*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER** — Detroit, MI *19-1*
6. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *28-12*
8. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *12-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *35-3*
10. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *21-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *43-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *37-0-1*
4. **STEVE LITTLE** — Reading, PA *22-13-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *42-2*
6. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *25-1*
7. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *32-6-1*
8. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *23-1*
9. **ANTOINE BYRD** — Los Angeles, CA *24-4-1*
10. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** — Italy *24-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *30-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-3-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *49-2*
6. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *30-2*
7. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC *27-1*
8. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *25-2*
9. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *37-5*
10. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *22-3*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Limit: 154 pounds

1. SIMON BROWN
Mount Airy, MD 41-2 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 48-1 (WBA Champ)
3. GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy 57-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 20-5
5. TERRY NORRIS
Moreno Valley, CA 37-4
6. CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO 30-1
7. TONY MARSHALL
Albany, NY 16-3-4
8. WINKY WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 24-0
9. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 15-1
10. JAVIER CASTILLEJO
Spain 33-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 33-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 61-3-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 55-0
6. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 25-0
7. ANTHONY JONES
Detroit, MI 34-5-1
8. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 17-0-1
9. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 30-0
10. LARRY BARNES
Mt. Vernon, NY 31-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
Warren, OH 49-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 89-1-1
3. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
Brentwood, NY 24-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 66-2-2 (WBA Champ)
5. ZACK PADILLA
Azusa, CA 20-1-1
6. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 11-0
7. CHARLES MURRAY
Rochester, NY 31-2
8. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 22-0
9. CARLOS GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-1
10. TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA 44-4-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 31-0 (WBC Champ)
2. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 40-1 (IBF Champ)
3. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
Atlantic City, NJ 22-0-1
5. FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL 35-19-4
6. JOEY GAMACHE
Lewiston, ME 34-1
7. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 24-1-1
8. SHARMBA MITCHELL
Takoma Park, MD 30-1
9. SHANE MOSLEY
Pomona, CA 10-0
10. RAMON MARCHENA
Mexico 49-11-2

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Limit: 130 pounds

1. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 36-2-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 34-3 (IBF Champ)
4. CALVIN GROVE
Jonesville, PA 45-5
5. GABE RUELAS
Yuma, CA 37-2
6. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Montebello, CA 12-0
7. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 44-1-1
8. REGILIO TUUR
Whitestone, NY 34-3-1
9. ED HOPSON
St. Louis, MO 22-0
10. MARCOS GUEVARA
Venezuela 21-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 37-0 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 35-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. GOYO VARGAS
Mexico 30-4-1
5. YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea 25-2-1
6. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 27-0-2
7. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 17-9-1
8. MIGUEL ARROZAL
Portland, OR 39-1
9. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 29-2-2
10. FRANCISCO SEGURA
Coachella, CA 24-6-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 26-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 50-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 39-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 33-1
5. JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico 29-3-2
6. JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX 38-3-1
7. JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA 46-6
8. CESAR SOTO
Mexico 36-5-2
9. JAE WON CHOI
South Korea 18-0
10. JOSE BADILLO
Puerto Rico 14-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 36-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY 32-0 (WBA Champ)
3. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
Japan 20-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 24-1
5. JUNG IL BYUN
South Korea 10-1
6. RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico 15-0
7. VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico 34-12-2
8. VINCENZO BELCASTRO
Italy 26-5-3
9. DAORUNG CHUWATANA
Thailand 49-4-2
10. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
Las Vegas, NV 12-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Limit: 115 pounds

1. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 21-4 (IBF Champ)
2. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
Japan 23-0 (WBA Champ)
3. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 29-0
4. JOSE LUIS BUENO
Mexico 24-3-1 (WBC Champ)
5. SUNG KIL MOON
South Korea 20-2
6. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 45-4
7. JOHNNY BREDAHL
Denmark 21-0
8. CARLOS SALAZAR
Argentina 30-4-3
9. KOTARO HAYASHI
Japan 12-3
10. CECILIO ESPINO
Huntington Park, CA 27-3-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 17-0 (WBC Champ)
2. SAN SOW PLOENCHIT
Thailand 17-0 (WBA Champ)
3. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
Thailand 17-0 (IBF Champ)
4. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 36-4-1
5. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 17-1
6. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
Mexico 23-11-2
7. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 17-1
8. DANNY ROMERO
Albuquerque, NM 14-0
9. ROBBIE REGAN
Wales 13-1-3
10. ARTHUR JOHNSON
Minneapolis, MN 8-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 30-1
3. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 25-3 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 38-4-3
5. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 11-1
6. LEON SALAZAR
Panama 15-3-1
7. JOSE DeJESUS
Puerto Rico 26-2-1
8. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 22-5
9. FAHLAN SAKKIRIN
Thailand 25-2-1
10. ROBINSON CUESTA
Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

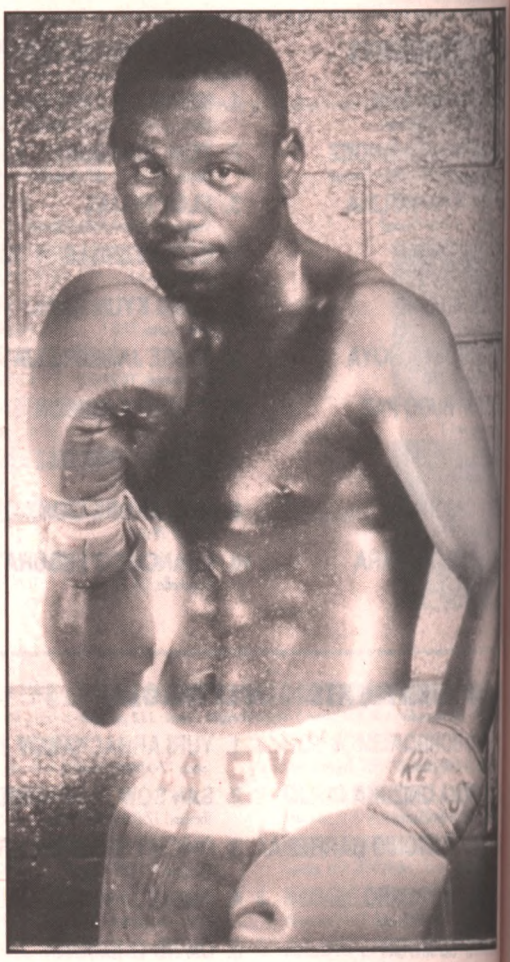
1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. JAMES TONEY
Super Middleweight
3. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Bantamweight
4. EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Heavyweight
5. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight
6. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Junior Flyweight
7. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Junior Flyweight
8. FRANKIE RANDALL
Junior Welterweight
9. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Junior Welterweight
10. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Junior Featherweight

New Faces

Corey Johnson

Welterweight

By Phil Woolever



Opponents of rising attraction Corey "Prime Time" Johnson have found themselves in a fistic version of the good news-bad news scenario. It's a plus for them that Johnson has recorded only two wins inside the distance, and that he rarely sends an adversary to the floor. Then there's the negative: Johnson, who can indeed bust more than a grape, has gone undefeated in his first 14 starts. Most of his foes have left the ring with a stinging sensation that reminds them of the harsh facial that had just been applied.

The 5'11" southpaw is 22 years old, but a veteran in terms of style. He throws a variety of textbook punches, having learned the game in the boxing gyms/classrooms of the Detroit area. Johnson had a distinguished amateur career, though not distinct in a marketing sense. His potential was recognized by Arizona promoter Steve Eisner and matchmaker Scott Maling, who was enough of a believer to invest in management duties.

Eisner is a keen observer and also a frantic fan of the sport. The quality of his shows has withstood the test of time for decades, and he has rarely been this excited about a prospect.

"Sometimes Corey's not particularly flashy," he admits, "but he's always technically superb. It doesn't take too long for the public to appreciate that."

A series of standing-room-only shows backs up the assessment.

Johnson's relocation to the desert was a solid move. "I know it's good for me to be out here concentrating on boxing, and it's working out just like I hoped," he says. "The people have been great. I feel like this is my second home."

Johnson has sewn the names of his mother and daughter on his trunks to help inspire him toward reaching his goal of unifying the welterweight title.

(Continued on page 57)

PRO RECORD

1991		
Oct. 8	Aaron McLaurine, Auburn Hills, MI	KO 4
1992		
May 26	Jeff Williams, Auburn Hills	W 4
July 7	Ed Hernandez, Scottsdale, AZ	W 4
July 18	Jean Morin, Chicoutimi, Quebec	W 8
Aug. 18	Ed Hernandez, Phoenix, AZ	W 6
Sept. 29	Brandon Croly, Phoenix	W 6
Oct. 27	Augustine Renteria, Phoenix	W 6
1993		
Jan. 12	Tyrone Ingram, Auburn Hills	KO 3
May 25	Derrick McGuire, Auburn Hills	W 8
Aug. 4	Ricky Lehman, Scottsdale	W 8
Sept. 21	Ismael Diaz, Scottsdale	W 8
Oct. 16	Amancio Castro, Phoenix	W 8
Nov. 11	Ray Garcia, Scottsdale	W 8
1994		
March 25	Mario Morales, Scottsdale	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	14	14	0	0	2

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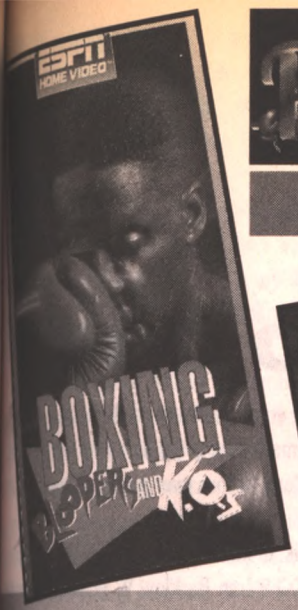

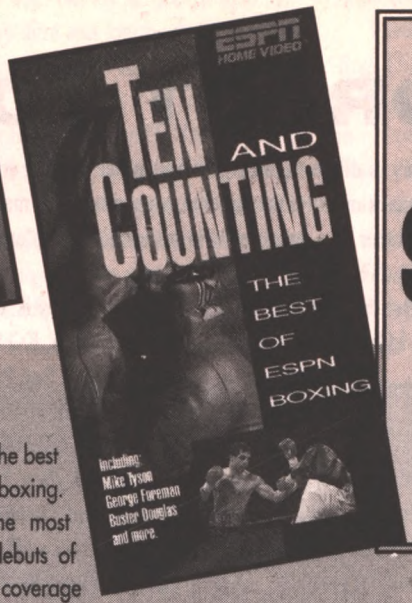

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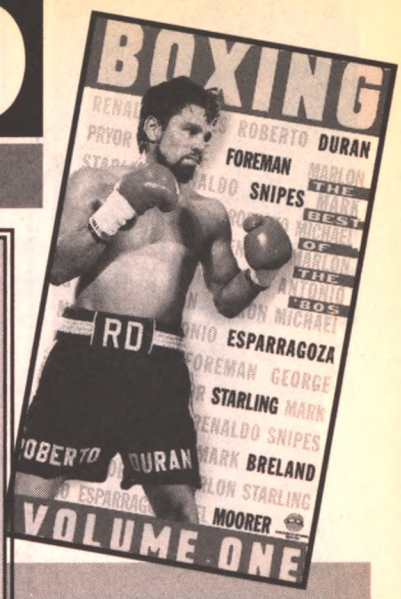

TEN AND COUNTING: THE BEST OF ESPN BOXING

This new release from ESPN captures the best moments from 10 years of ESPN boxing. You'll see outstanding matchups, the most exciting rounds, and the television debuts of Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas. Plus coverage of George Foreman's comeback, Bobby Czyz, and much more. **45 minutes**

BOXING BLOOPERS AND K.O.s

Host Al Bernstein takes you on a tour through the bizarre and hard-hitting world of boxing. This fast-paced video includes high-powered knock-out action and the wackiest bloopers ever to be captured on video. Also includes interviews with Tiger, Holmes, Frazier, and Holyfield. **30 minutes**

THE LEONARD-HEARNS SAGA

You'll have a ringside seat for two of the best fights in the history of the sport as Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns go to war. Both fights (September 16, 1981, and June 12, 1989) are shown in their entirety. Included with this video is a scorecard and a special poster offer. **127 minutes**

BEST OF THE '80s—VOLUME 1

This hard-hitting video provides an in-depth look at the best peak-action footage of Roberto Duran, George Foreman, Mark Breland, Antonio Esparragoza, Michael Moorer, Marlon Starling, and Renaldo Snipes. **53 minutes**

BEST OF THE '80s—VOLUME 2

This exciting followup to Volume 1 includes ring action of Tim Witherspoon, George Foreman, Aaron Pryor, Roberto Duran, Leslie Stewart, Larry Holmes, and Bobby Czyz. **51 minutes**

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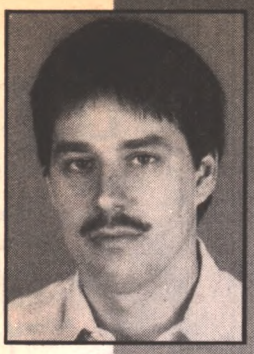


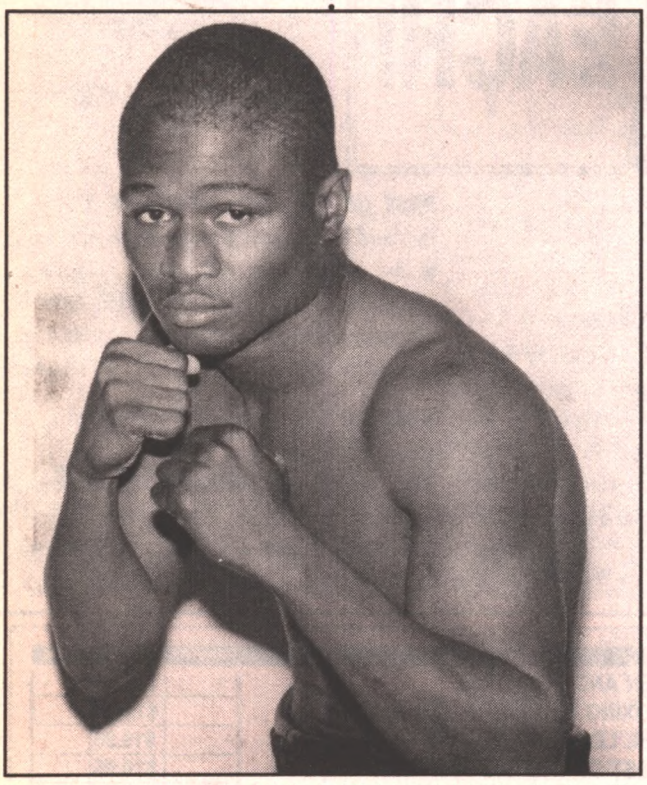
Ryan Out Loud

HE FORGOT TO DUCK

By Jeff Ryan

James "Lights Out" Toney is different, all right. And it has nothing to do with the drugs he once sold, the runaway dad he dreams of smacking silly, the bakery-owner mom who made him roll dough long before he was rolling in it, or the Jewish mother of a manager who once knew Elvis and whose ever-polished fingernails are longer than the line of tourists at Graceland.

It's great copy, all of it. But the copy that best tells you what Toney is all about is this: KO 11 Michael Nunn, W 12 Reggie Johnson, D 12 Mike McCallum, W 12 Mike McCallum, KO 9 Iran Barkley, W 12 Tony Thornton, KO 4 Tim Littles, and scheduled to face Prince Charles Williams on July 29 and Roy Jones on October 1.



Toney is intent on proving he's bad, which is good for boxing fans. The IBF super middleweight champion continues to face quality opposition.

Lights Out? No way. Toney is forever burning the midnight oil. And it's not all crude oil, either. For although there have been some designated hittees on Toney's lineup card (Glenn Wolfe, Glenn Thomas, and a few guys who weren't even as tough as Glenn Close when she was slugging Michael Keaton in *The Paper*), his reigns at middleweight and super middleweight have been characterized by an insatiable appetite for Grade A competition.

He avoids no one, and in today's game that kind of moxie is as rare as Jim Lampley having a bad hair day. The last guy who continually forgot to duck—when his fights were being negotiated, that is—was Mike Tyson. Remember him? No socks. No robe. No prisoners taken. And no fear. Baddest man on the planet, he boasted, and after he talked the talk, he stuck his bare feet into those low-cut black boots of his and walked the walk. Tyson really did fight everybody and anybody. Unfortunately, he also fought the law and the law won.

For a while in Tyson's absence, Julio Cesar Chavez and Pernell Whitaker, two incredible technicians who knew better than anyone how good they really were, seemed to embrace the bring-'em-all-on philosophy. Then, inexplicably, they both went soft on us. Chavez decided one day that he wanted no part of *Jake Rodriguez*. Whitaker says he won't give Buddy McGirt a rematch because he doesn't like his rival's attitude. As though McGirt should put on a suit, make an appointment, and interview for the job of top welterweight contender.

"Chavez and Whitaker are chicken-s___," says Toney. "They're not real champions. I have confidence in my ability. Other guys talk a good game, but when it comes down to it, they know there's a chance they can lose. That's when they start being careful."

"James is positive there's no one out there who's better than him," says Jackie Kallen, Toney's manager. "If someone acts cocky, he wants to hurt him. He probably wouldn't enjoy boxing at all if people gave him respect. His attitude is 'Here's the belt, come and get it.' When they come after it, it's like feeding rats to a snake. He likes to devour the weak."

Lest it ever be suggested that Toney's arrogance doesn't quite measure up to the swagger that made Tyson so effective, take a look at his idea of "the weak." There's Nunn, who was simply the best middleweight in the world and a 20-1 favorite when Toney leveled him; Johnson, who rebounded from a disputed defeat to Toney by capturing the WBA middleweight belt; McCallum, a fellow 160-pound king who was 42-1 the first time Toney came calling; triple-crown titlist Barkley; and an undefeated Littles. Not exactly guys who get sand kicked in their faces at the beach.

Listen to Toney on a regular basis and you'll swear he's a challenger, not the IBF super middleweight champion. He is forever calling for hides and seeking confrontations. He wants more people than Uncle Sam does.

...ults, real or imagined, work him into a frenzy, but to his credit, it's ...ays a *controlled* frenzy. He wanted to destroy Barkley, but ...matically dulled "The Blade" with pinpoint counterpunching. With ...kley dispatched, Toney has now installed Jones atop the Must-Be-Hit ...de.

"I hate him," says Toney, a man who uses words like "hate" frequently, ...not loosely. "Everybody thinks he's bad, but all he does is slap. The ...k of guys he fights now I fought in my third and fourth pro fights. Jones ...fought one good guy, Bernard Hopkins. And you didn't see him do that ...y s__ against him."

Jones has the audacity to think he can beat Toney, and in Toney's mind, ...means lights out with lower-case letters. First, though, is the "tuneup" ...nst Williams, a former IBF light heavyweight champion who is on the ...fine but still dangerous. Instead of The Prince, Toney could have faced ...one of a few dozen paupers and taken no risk. But that's not the way he ...ks. He wants the carpenters to keep building his bully pulpit higher and ...er so he has to keep climbing to reach it. If he gets past Williams and Jones, he plans to pick a fight with Chris Eubank, then go after WBA light heavyweight titlist Virgil Hill next year.

Taking on the best is one thing. Taking on the best in three weight classes is quite another. Toney has opened my eyes as he's closed those of his rivals. He may not be the best fighter in boxing, but he's certainly the one with the best mentality, no matter if we can't always understand the motivation behind it.

Listening to Toney, I'm reminded of the famous kitchen scene in *Raging Bull*. That's the one in which that Jake guy who had to wait forever for his title shot (LaMotta, not Rodriguez) was lamenting the fact that, as a middleweight, he was never going to be able to step in the ring with heavyweight Joe Louis. Just picture Toney in LaMotta's place and imagine the dialogue:

"I don't care what the chump weighs, he better stop duckin' me. Tell him I ain't no Billy Conn. Can't run and can't hide? I don't plan on doing either one. If Galento knocked him down, what will I do to him? Brown Bomber my ass ... " ■

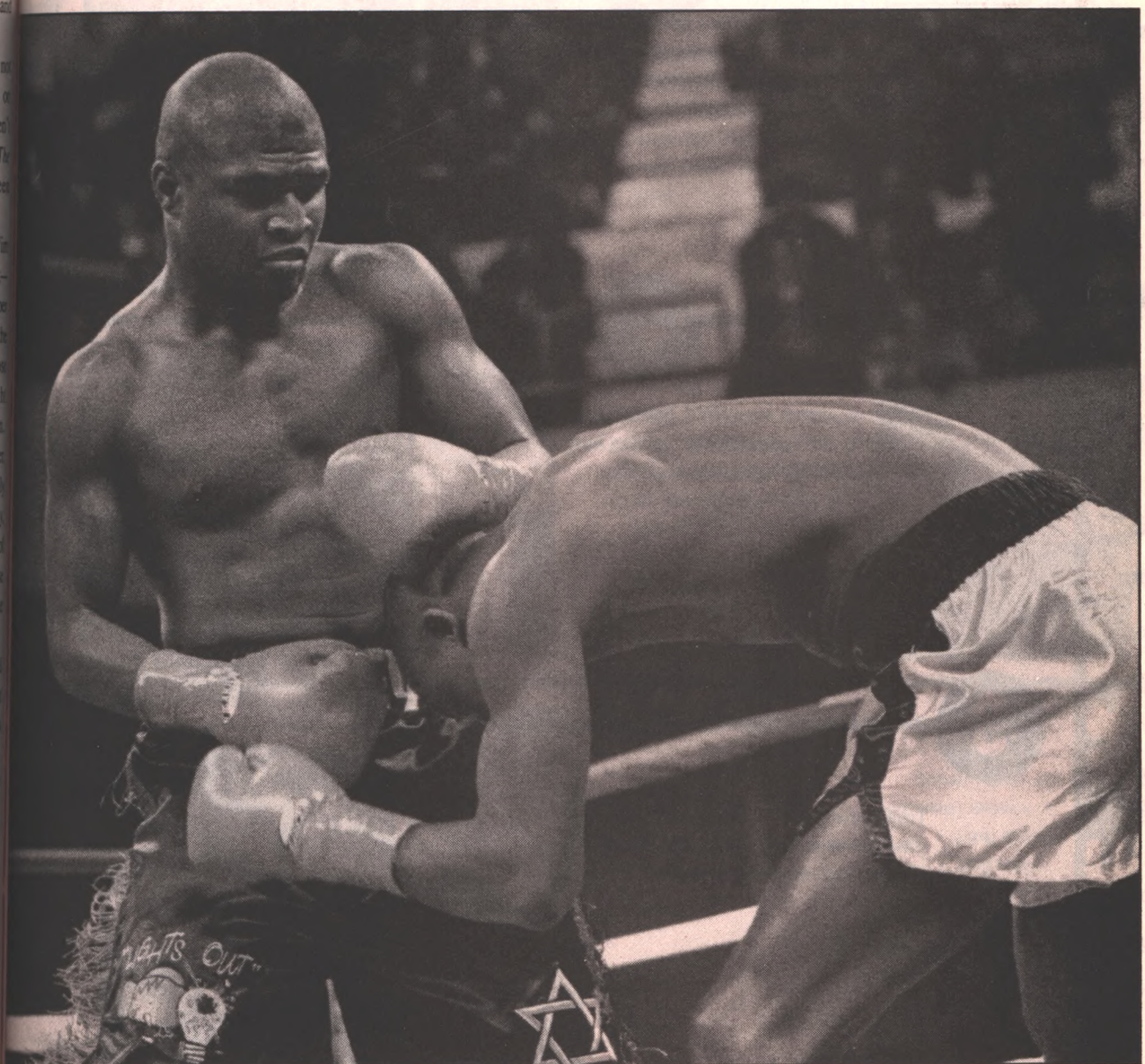


Photo by Brent Cook

In March, Toney survived an eye cut to stop unbeaten Tim Littles. His immediate future includes dates with Prince Charles Williams and Roy Jones.

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

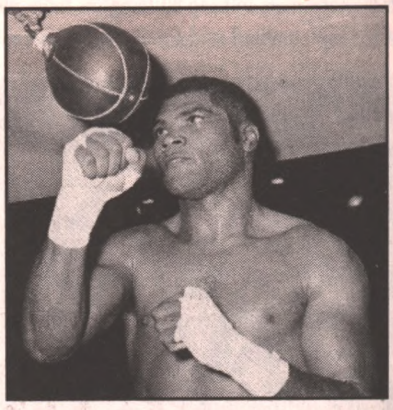
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: HARD-HITTING HEAVYWEIGHTS

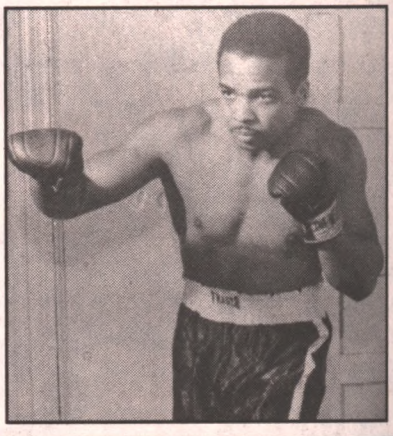
1

A Californian with a crackling punch, this contender began his career with a string of kayos, then ran into an opponent with a rock-solid chin in Jerry Quarry.



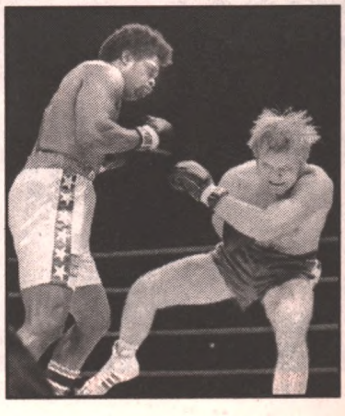
2

This powerpuncher was a classic bomber with a brittle chin. He fought in the late-'40s and early-'50s, and if he didn't get you, you got him.



3

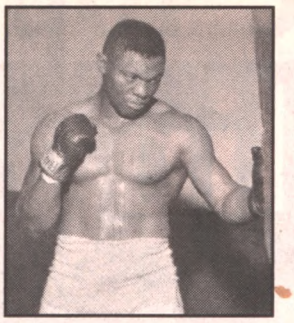
Tough, strong, and determined, this heavyweight (shown crushing Jurgen Blin) was the loser in one of the greatest heavyweight brawls of all-time.



T OUR BOXING IQ

4

ving learned how to fight in tle Royales, this perennial con- ter showed no fear in showdowns Jersey Joe Walcott and Ezzard rles. That's because he was wed to fight them one at a time.



5

Even a policeman's bullet couldn't stop this body-beautiful Texan, who kayoed Ernie Terrell but was stopped by Muhammad Ali and Sonny Liston.

6

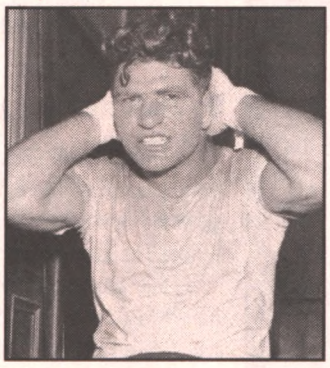
big left hook can carry you a ng way, as evidenced by this ropean heavyweight, who came one of the most popular n-world champions ever.

7

One of the biggest hitters of the '30s, this jovial giant could drop his opponent with a one-liner or one punch. He scored kayos in 52 of his 70 wins.

8

med with his heavily hyped "Cosmic Punch," this refreshingly riginal contender secured only one y at the title. Unfortunately for m, it came against Joe Louis.

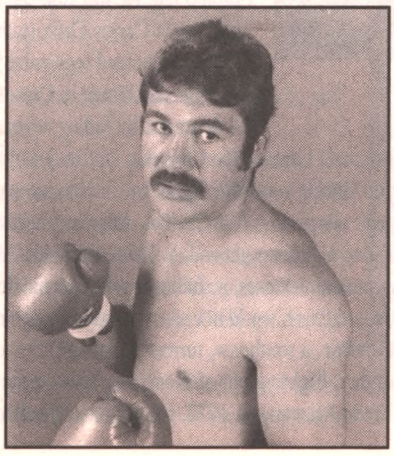


9

Why is this European heavyweight showing off *two* fists? He was strictly a right-hand hitter, and his power carried him all the way to the throne.

10

This world champion underwent surgery on his hands so often that his powerpunch became known as his "bionic" right. Hint: He recently began a comeback.

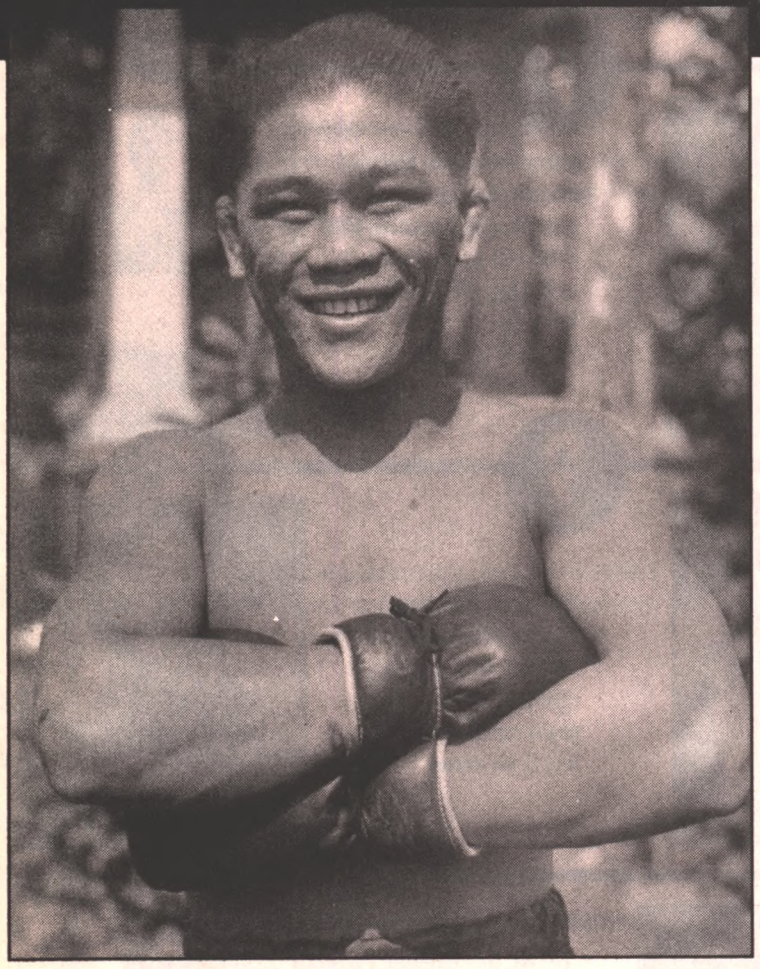


ANSWERS:

1) Mac Foster
2) Bob Satterfield
3) Ron Lyle
4) Elmer (Violent) Ray
5) Cleveland Williams
6) Henry Cooper
7) Max Baer
8) Lou Nova
9) Ingemar Johansson
10) Gerrie Coetzee

The Best Of A Nation

The All-Time Top 10 Of The Philippines



Flyweight legend Pancho Villa

1. Pancho Villa
2. Gabriel (Flash) Elorde
3. Ceferino Garcia
4. Ben Villaflor
5. Little Dado
6. Small Montana
7. Rolando Navarette
8. Erbito Salavarria
9. Dodie Boy Penalosa
10. Bernabe Villacampo

By Jack Fiske & Hermie Rivera

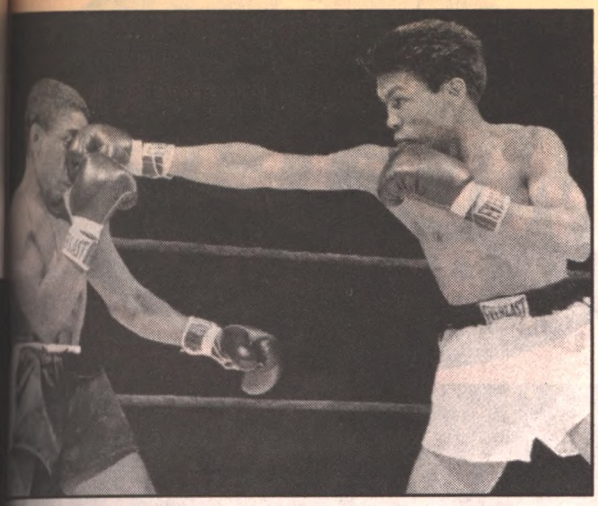
Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, THE RING has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

• **Pancho Villa** (Francisco Guilledo) was the first Filip world champion. The old-timers swear by him. In 1923, he the world flyweight title by knocking out the incomparable Jim Wilde. The kayo put the Philippines on the boxing map. V made four successful defenses, then, after a non-title fight los Jimmy McLarnin in 1925, he died at age 23 of blood poison caused by an ulcerated tooth.

• **Gabriel (Flash) Elorde** was the hero of the modern- Filipino fan. He lost title fights to featherweight Sandy Saddler lightweight Carlos Ortiz (twice), but was dominant at junior li weight and helped legitimize the division. He won the title by s ping Harold Gomes in Quezon City in 1960, and made 10 succe ful defenses, including several in Manila. He defeated, among ers, Saddler, Ismael Laguna, Ike Chestnut, and Joey Lopes.

• **Ceferino Garcia** was a big fighter by Filipino standards. He was famous for his bolo pun which was later adopted by Kid Gavilan. After two unsuccessful tries at the world welterwe title, he moved to middleweight and, in 1939, dethroned Fred Apostoli by seventh-round kayo. made two successful defenses, including a controversial draw against Henry Armstrong, who trying for a record fourth world title. A tremendous puncher during his prime.

• **Ben Villaflor**, a southpaw, turned pro at age 15 and was done with his ring career bef his 24th birthday. Fighting out of Honolulu, he won the world junior lightweight title by pointing Alfredo Marcano in 1972. He regained the crown after losing it to Kuniaki Shib



Elorde strikes against Miguel Berrios. The southpaw was unsuccess- title tries at featherweight and lightweight. He was, however, one of best junior lightweights of all-time, as he made 10 successful defenses.

over the course of two reigns made seven successful defenses. The hardest-punching 130-pounder of his time.

• **Little Dado** (Elevetero Zapanta) was an outstanding flyweight who, like so many Filipino fighters, moved his base to Northern California and did most of his fighting there. In 1938, he outpointed countryman Small Montana to win the vacant California world title. One year later, he was proclaimed NBA champion, though not generally regarded as a legitimate

Zeferino Garcia was a devastating puncher, as middleweight champion Fred Apostoli discovered in October 1939. Garcia took the crown via sev- ninth-round kayo, and made two successful defenses.

world titlist. He defeated, among others, Lou Salica and Jackie Jurich, and fought to a draw with Manuel Ortiz.

• **Small Montana** (Benjamin L. Gan) scored only 10 knockouts in 79 career wins, but in the mid-'30s was arguably second only to Benny Lynch among world-class flyweights. In 1935, he won the New York State world title by decisioning Midget Wolgast. In 1937, he lost a 15-rounder to Lynch in a bout for the vacant world title. He defeated world champions Manuel Ortiz and Tony Marino and fought to draws against Little Dado and Jackie Jurich.

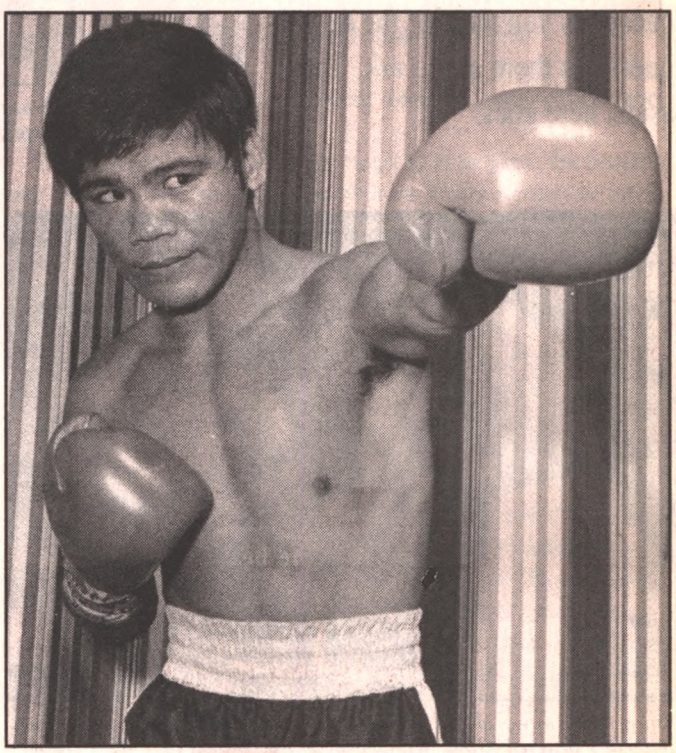
• **Rolando Navarette**, a southpaw, was the hardest-hitting 130-pounder in the world during the golden age of the division. After being kayoed in a 1980 try at Alexis Arguello's WBC title, he rebounded to capture the crown by crushing Cornelius Boza-Edwards in five rounds in 1981. He retained the title by surviving a war against Chung Il Choi, then lost to the rock-chinned Bazooka Limon. A couple of years later, he was convicted of rape in Honolulu and spent several years in jail.

• **Erbito Salavarria** continued the tradition of championship-caliber Filipino flyweights. He won the WBC title with a second-round kayo of the outstanding Chartchai Chionoi in 1970, and made two successful defenses, including a draw with future champion Betulio Gonzalez, before losing to Venice Borkorsor. In 1975, he became a champion for a second time, out-pointing WBA king Susumu Hanagata. He made one defense, then lost to Alfonso Lopez. Very popular at home, largely because he was the first Filipino to regain a world title.

• **Dodie Boy Penalosa** has overcome long odds; he suffered from polio as a child, and his left leg is shorter than his right. He won the national junior flyweight title in his 10th pro bout, the Oriental & Pacific title in his 12th bout, and the newly created IBF title in his 14th bout (in 1983). The southpaw made three successful defenses before trying for the WBA fly-weight crown. He lost on points to Hilario Zapata, then, in 1987, won the IBF 112-pound crown by knocking out Hi Sup Shin. He lost the title in his first defense. Now 31, he remains active as a junior bantamweight.

• **Bernabe Villacampo** lacked finesse, but was extremely popular because of his all-or-nothing approach. He overcame a mediocre record to win a world title at flyweight. Another southpaw, he lost in his first try at the prize, dropping a decision to Chartchai Chionoi in 1968. One year later, he challenged WBA champion Hiroyuki Ebihara, climbing through the ropes with a mark of 18-9-2. He took the crown via 15-round decision, then lost it in his first defense vs. Thai Berkrerk Chartvanchai. ■

Jack Fiske, a columnist for THE RING, is the dean of American boxing writers. He wrote a column for the San Francisco Chronicle for 40 years. Hermie Rivera is a radio and TV announcer in Manila. He managed Filipino world champions Morris East and Luisito Espinosa.

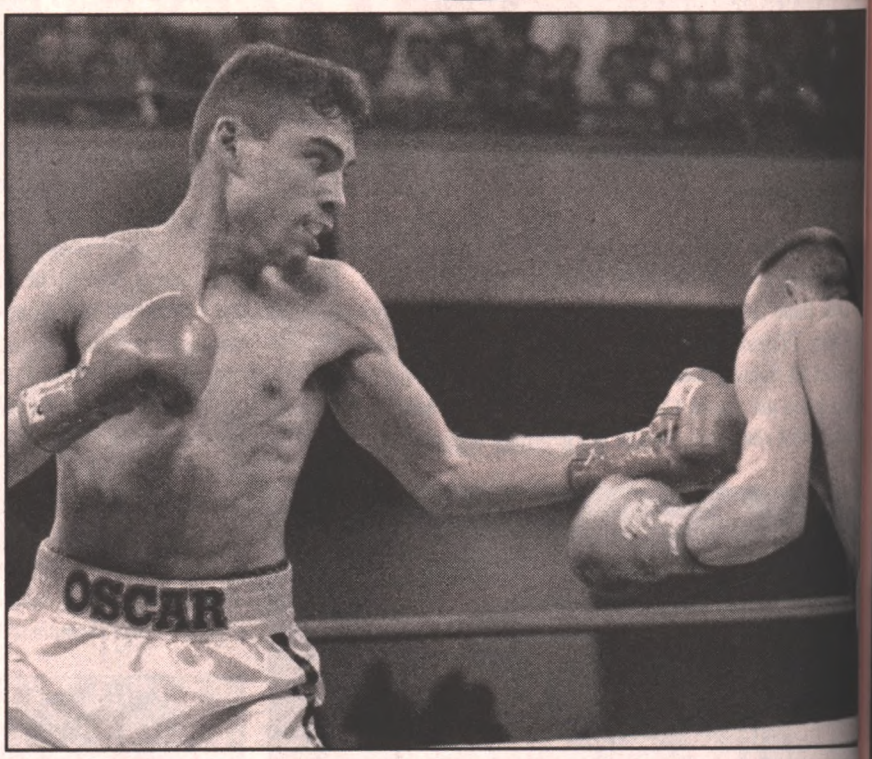


Two-time junior lightweight champion Ben Villaflor

STATE OF THE GAME: THE MID-TERM REPORT

By Steve Farhood

In our January 1994 issue, THE RING presented our annual "State Of The Game" address. Consider this our mid-year report. In an effort to make sense of the nonsensical world of professional boxing, we've listed a number of oft-asked questions and done our best to answer them. Of course, as with most difficult subjects, the more questions you answer, the more questions there are to ask. That aside, here goes.



As the summer approached, one of boxing's hottest topics of conversation was junior lightweight Oscar De La Hoya. In the first half of 1994, he emerged—sort of—as a superstar.

Photo by Jay Lash

The scoring in world title fights continues to create controversy. Most observers believed Arthur Williams deserved the nod over WBA cruiserweight champion Orlin Norris, but Norris captured a split decision.

Why have there been so much controversial scoring in recent bouts?

Scoring is subjective, but what about common sense? First of all, two of the four points of scoring are confusing. Everyone can understand effective aggressiveness and clean punching. But what in the name of Harold Lederman is ring generalship? And what about defense? If Pernell Whitaker makes his opponent miss again and again but delivers no punches of his own, should he be awarded the round?

Second problem: No one seems sure about how to use the 10-point must system. It isn't right that nine of every 10 judges will score a round 10-9 whether the winner issues a beating (without scoring a knockdown) or narrowly boxes his opponent by a jab or two. North Carolina judge Leo Johnson might have been convinced we has doing the right thing in scoring almost every round in the one-sided Bobby Czyz-George O'Mara fight 10-7 for Czyz, despite the fact that the winner scored no knockdowns. But all he succeeded in doing was throwing the scoring for one fight completely out of proportion.

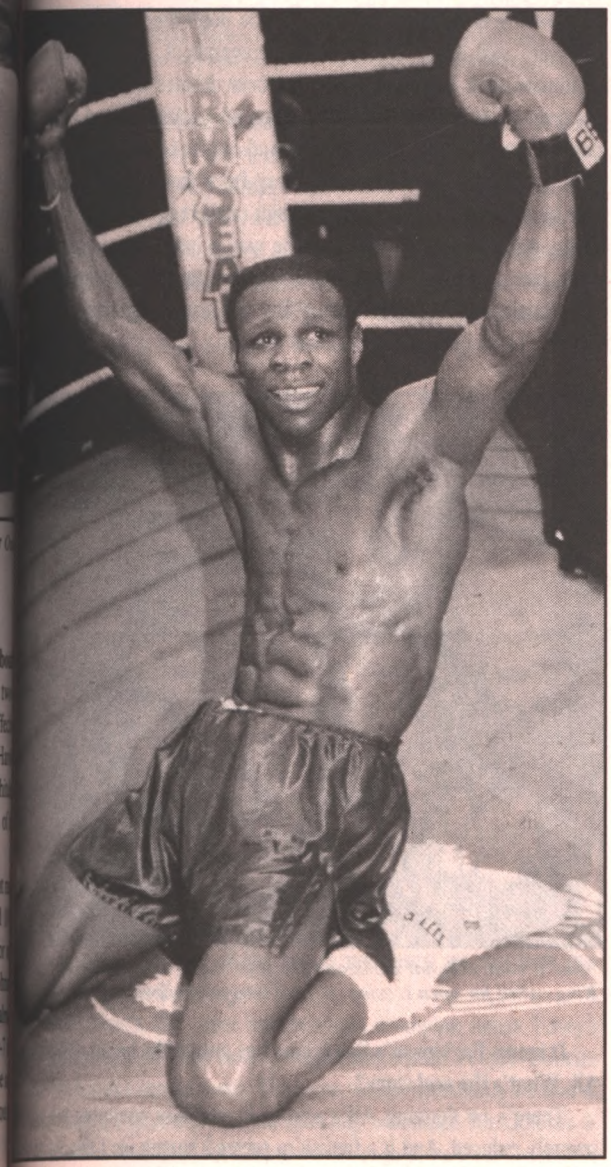
One more thing: Bad judges continue to resurface, especially in world title fights. Why isn't there a merit system?

Why hasn't Congress voted on a bill that introduces federal control of boxing?

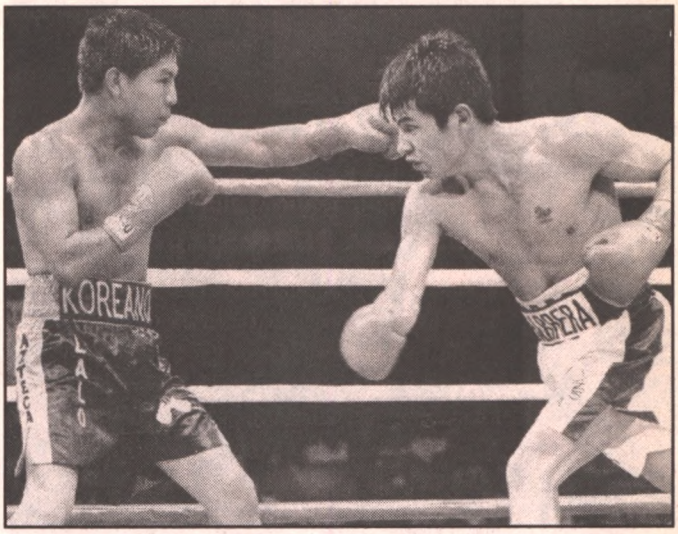
As incredible as it may seem, our legislators don't rate boxing among their priorities. The wide-ranging bill sponsored by Senator William Roth (Delaware), and introduced after the controversial James Toney-Dave Tiberi decision in 1992, will likely never be considered. In its place, Senator John McCain (Arizona) is suggesting legislation that calls for standardized rules and medical regulations and a passport system for all fighters appearing in the USA, and mandates that all states must have a commission in place. Interestingly, the bill calls for states without commissions, like Oklahoma, Colorado, or North Carolina, to employ the personnel from a neighboring commission to regulate their shows. Sounds good to us.)

Is the WBO growing in stature?

The WBO still ranks a distant fourth, behind the WBC, IBF, and WBA. The alphabet organization boasts of a few credible champions, including welterweight Barber, Chris Eubank, and Zack Padilla, and it received a major boost when Oscar De La Hoya won its junior lightweight crown. But credibility remains an issue. For instance, De La Hoya dethroned Jimmi Bredahl, who, when compared to world champions Azumah Nelson (WBC), John-John Molina (IBF) and Genaro Hernandez (WBA), is strictly minor league. Moreover, De La Hoya's first defense will come against Italy's unbeaten but unknown Giorgio Campanella, whom the WBO has seen fit to rank first. If the WBO chose not to issue monthly ratings, it would be much easier to take them seriously. The same, of course, can be said of the WBC, IBF, and WBA.



Enigmatic and charismatic, British super middleweight Chris Eubank is among the champions of which the lightly regarded WBO can boast.



Junior bantamweight Marco Antonio Barrera seems a sure bet to win a world title. South-of-the-border insiders consider him the most talented Mexican fighter since Julio Cesar Chavez. Barrera is 29-0.

Who are the best non-champions in boxing?

One man's top 10, in no particular order. (We've considered only fighters who have never reigned as world champions.): Marco Antonio Barrera, Bernard Hopkins, Jesse James Leija, Kostya Tszyu, Ike Quartey, Oba Carr, Yori Boy Campas, Carl Daniels, David Kamau, Gabe Ruelas.

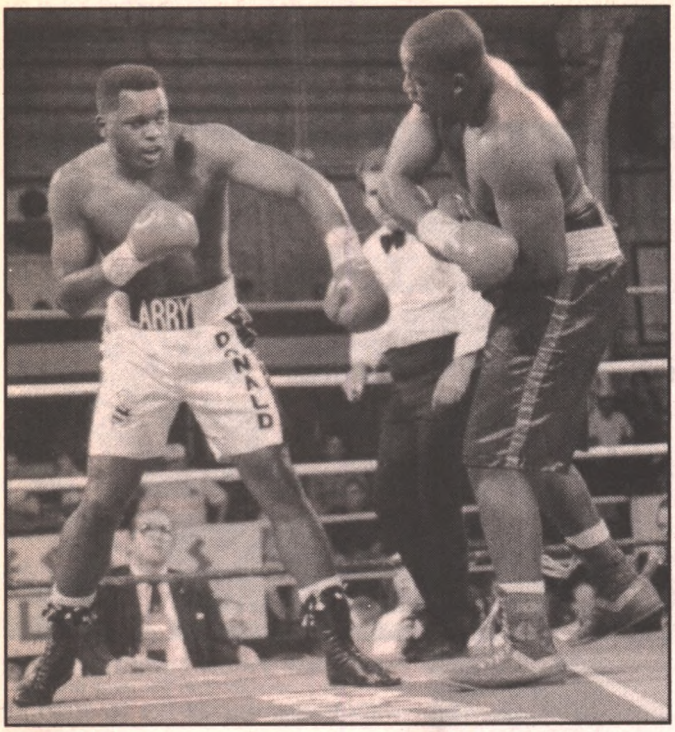
If boxing's ratings are consistently good, why aren't there more fights on free TV?

Maybe boxing's image has finally caught up to the game. The networks have trouble selling commercials, and while the Nielsen numbers are strong, the viewer demographics don't encourage the major advertisers to open up their checkbooks. For instance, someone watching Jose Maria Olazabal win the Masters is more likely to spend major bucks on a car or life insurance than someone watching Chiquita Gonzalez win the junior flyweight title. Good news, though: Fox, which spent zillions of dollars to outbid CBS for part of the NFL package, may be interested in a boxing series. Stay tuned.

For now, at least, big-time boxing is dead in New York City. Has a comeback begun in Los Angeles?

Too early to tell. The answer will be determined by how the Mexican-American community reacts to Bob Arum's efforts at the newly renovated Grand Olympic Auditorium. In Inglewood, The Great Western Forum continues to run world-class cards—and lose money. Fortunately, when it comes to boxing, Dr. Jerry Buss, who also owns the Lakers, isn't a bottom-line type of guy. At the Olympic, Arum knows he has to attract the Mexican-American fans—something Forum Boxing has never gone out of its way to do. If the fights are competitive and the ticket prices reasonable, the L.A. fans will support the cards. According to columnist Jack

Fiske, however, the early returns aren't promising. "Top Rank may not admit it," he wrote in the newsletter *Flash*, "but paid attendance and the gate at the refurbished arena is far—very far—from even modest expectations."



Larry Donald, shown knocking out Al Shoffner, has established himself as the leader of the heavyweights from the Class of '92. The unbeaten boxer has beaten Jeremy Williams and is hoping for a shot at Riddick Bowe.

Is the heavyweight division as bad as it seems?

Not really. If you believe in conventional wisdom, the heavyweight division has always stunk, with the exception of the Ali-Frazier-Foreman era. Riddick Bowe, Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer, and Lennox Lewis form a reasonably strong core, and in a year or so, when what's-his-name gets out of jail, there'll be renewed drama and excitement. The division's future, however, will be determined by the progress of the Class of '92, which includes, among others, Larry Donald, Buster Mathis Jr., Jeremy Williams, David Tua, Samson Po'uha, Melvin Foster, and Shannon Briggs. If two or more of them prove to be championship material, the division will remain healthy through the mid-'90s.

Everyone agrees that one of boxing's biggest problems is three or four world champions per division, but no one seems to do anything about it. Will there ever again be unified titles?

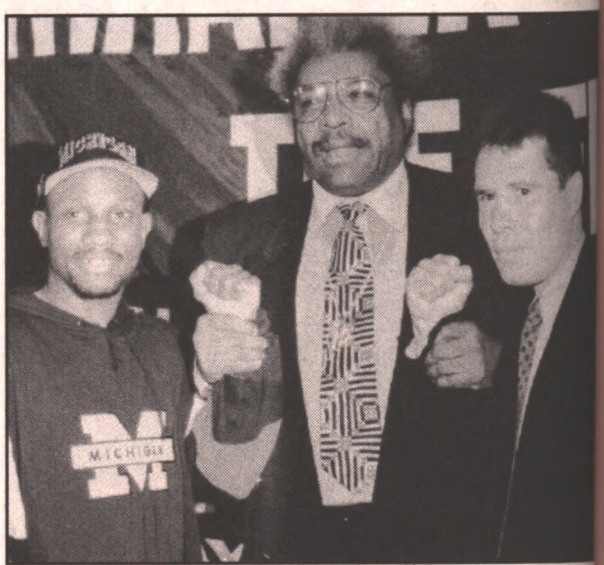
Will you settle for *some* unified titles? If everything falls right (fat chance), in the next few months IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales will meet WBA titlist Junior Jones, IBF junior featherweight king Kennedy McKinney will clash with WBC boss Tracy Patterson, Don King will find a way to unify the super middleweight title, and Bob Arum will follow through on his plan to unify the cruiserweight crown. As for the most important title of all, WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis figures to soon face the WBA/IBF champion (as we went to press, Evander Holyfield was preparing to defend against Michael Moorer). But unified titles as a way of life? The status quo allows lots of fighters, managers, promoters, and alphabet organizations to make lots of money. And to them, that makes a lot of sense.

Will Mike Tyson come back? And if he does, will he regain the heavyweight title?

The answer to the first question: Bet your house, your car, and your *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue on it. The second question is a bit more difficult. Tyson will win a tuneup or two—and make a few million dollars in the process. After only a couple of victories, he'll be thrust into a title shot. Don't look for him to reestablish his credentials by taking on a top contender. It won't be necessary. The guess here is that ultimately, he'll be unsuccessful. It can be argued he was on the slide *before* his imprisonment and his extended layoff can't help. But styles often determine fights, and he'd have a helluva lot better chance against Evander Holyfield than Riddick Bowe. Or is it Herbie Hide you're hoping for?

After the Whitaker-Chavez controversy, promoter Don King called for open scoring. It was featured on a couple of nationally televised cards last year. Will there be more to come?

"Boxing is the only sport where you don't know who's winning until it's over," said King. "It leads to the perception of impropriety." King has a legitimate point. But open scoring has been debated for years, and whenever it's been implemented, it's drawn only a luke-warm response. Most fighters don't want to know whether they're ahead or behind, and most trainers, fearing their charges will coast, stray from the fight plan, or run into a knockout punch, would prefer the point totals remain a secret. More importantly, open scoring could affect the way a judge sees a fight, especially when one of the contestants is a hometown favorite. Given King's ties to Jose Sulaiman, it's possible the WBC will experiment with open scoring. But don't anticipate any widespread use.



After a controversial decision tarnished the Whitaker-Chavez fight, Don King called for open scoring. It's not likely to happen.

It seems Parkinson's Syndrome has gotten the better of Muhammad Ali. What's the *real* story?

There's no denying Ali's ability to verbally communicate has been severely reduced. And it's foolish to pretend boxing isn't directly responsible for his condition. But if you've recently seen "The Greatest" with room, you don't doubt his ability to communicate in his own unique way.

Is Muhammad Ali really happy? "The Greatest," seen with WBC President Jose Sulaiman, suffers from Parkinson's Syndrome, which limits his verbal communication. However, Ali can still work a room with the best of them.

What Parkinson's Syndrome *hasn't* done is affect Ali's ability to think. Moreover, his energy level and schedule remain mind-boggling. Close friends like Ali biographer Thomas Hauser and photographer Howard Bingham insist the former heavyweight champion is happy. Some Ali-watchers, most of whom have had no direct contact with him, find this difficult to believe. What everyone should keep in mind is the most important part of Ali's life is his religion. He is a devout Muslim, and as long as he continues to worship, he'll be fulfilled.

Is Alexis Arguello really coming back? And if he is, why?

As we went to press, Arguello, 42, had been sparring, and according to matchmaker Peyton Sher, "looked pretty decent." He hasn't fought in eight years, and before he's licensed in the USA, he'll undoubtedly have to prove his minor heart condition, which brought about his retirement in 1986, will not be adversely affected by his return.

While Arguello could surely use the paydays he hopes a comeback will bring—he lost much of his money and many of his possessions after the revolution in his native Nicaragua in the late-'70s—he says his intent is to reestablish his reputation so he can wield political power back home. Whether you believe that or not, it's almost impossible to envision him reentering the top 10, much less winning another world title. Eight years ago he was slow, defensively inferior, and all fought out. Does he really believe time has been kind to him? Let's hope one of boxing's classiest and most popular champions doesn't get hurt.

Pernell Whitaker is the world's best fighter, but there's no one for him to fight. What are some of the meaty matchups we can look forward to over the last half of the year?

For starters, there's IBF super middleweight champion James Toney's defense against former light heavyweight champion Prince Charles Williams. Their styles should mesh. The same cannot necessarily be said of Toney-Roy Jones, a pound-for-pound matchup scheduled for October 1. Chiquita Gonzalez and Michael Carbajal will engage in a rubber match, though we can't be sure it'll happen in 1994. *(See "Looking Ahead" on page 74.)* Whenever it happens, it'll be more exciting than their second meeting, but not as exciting as their first. WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez may defend against Azumah Nelson in what could be a war, a chess match, or a little of both. Junior featherweight champions Kennedy McKinney and Tracy Patterson want to tear each other up, limb by limb; Patterson has called McKinney "a weasel," and McKinney has promised a kayo within six rounds. If HBO puts up the big bucks, the fight will be made. Same for Orlando Canizales-Junior Jones, which could be the best bantamweight matchup since Carlos Zarate-Alfonso Zamora. For pure entertainment, Oscar De La Hoya-Jorge Paez should be worth a watch. And IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad's mandatory defense against Mexican hooker Yori Boy Campas could be the Fight of the Year.

Why are the ratings of the alphabet organizations so different from one another? And why is each one so different from the ratings in THE RING?

The WBC, IBF, and WBA don't even *try* and rank fighters according to their accomplishments and abilities. Political considerations outweigh fairness, and the alphabet organizations favor certain promoters, managers, or countries. (Ever notice how many Colombians are ranked by the IBF?) Some examples:

- None of the organizations ranks the rival champions.
- The WBC doesn't rank Riddick Bowe because he has no intention of fighting for Jose Sulaiman's title belt. Does anyone really think Bowe isn't among the top *30* heavyweights in the world?
- Five of the eight fighters rated first by the WBA from junior lightweight to strawweight are not rated in the top 10s of the WBC or IBF.
- The IBF has no relationship with South Korea and rates none of its fighters. As a result, there are several glaring omissions in the rankings of the lighter weight classes.
- Only ranked fighters can fight for the alphabet titles. But when a promoter wants to make a match between a champion and an unranked fighter, the challenger's name invariably pops up in the next month's top 10.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Does heavyweight Oliver McCall, pictured with trainer Greg Page, really deserve to be rated ahead of former champion Riddick Bowe? McCall is the mandatory challenger for WBC champion Lennox Lewis.

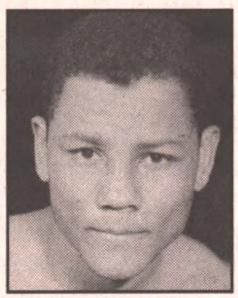
In contrast to the ratings of the WBC, IBF, and WBA, THE RING ranks fighters fairly; we don't care who promotes them or where they come from. Ranking fighters is a difficult task. Unlike the alphabet boys, we play no favorites. ■

Light Heavyweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*

Jose Torres

Playa Ponce, Puerto Rico
Career: 1958-1969
41-3-1 with 29 kayos



Developed by the legendary Cus D'Amato, Torres, a 1956 Olympic silver medalist who fought out of New York City, was one of the most intriguing fighters of the '60s. Undoubtedly due to the influence of his mentor, Torres concentrated on the mental aspects of the game. He was embraced by New York's literary crowd, and drew to ringside such heavyweight scribes as Norman Mailer and Pete Hamill.

Advancing slowly but steadily, the 5'10" Torres went unbeaten in his first 27 fights before being stopped by Florentino Fernandez. He rebounded strongly, and on March 30, 1965, won the world 175-pound crown by stopping Willie Pastrano in nine rounds. He successfully defended against Wayne Thornton, Eddie Cotton, and Chic Calderwood, and at one point was considered a legitimate opponent for heavyweight king Muhammad Ali.

On December 16, 1966, Torres was dethroned on points by former middleweight champion Dick Tiger. After losing a rematch, he fought twice more and retired.

Matthew Saad Muhammad

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Career: 1974-1992
39-16-3 with 29 kayos

The fighter most closely associated with the birth of casino boxing in Atlantic City, Saad, formerly Matthew Franklin, was arguably the most exciting fighter of the late-'70s and early-'80s. A slow starter with a remarkable ability to absorb punishment, he invariably rallied in the late rounds to snatch victory from a faded foe who couldn't hope to match "Miracle Matthew's" heart.

Saad's prime coincided with the golden era of the light heavyweight division. After surviving wars against the likes of Yaqui Lopez, Eddie Gregory, Marvin Johnson, and Billy Douglas, he won the WBC title by stopping Johnson in 1979's Fight of the Year. He made eight successful defenses, including thrilling victories over Lopez and former world champion John Conteh, before falling to Dwight Muhammad Qawi in December 1981. (He lost the rematch as well.) Though Saad lingered for more than 10 years, he never came close to regaining his championship form.

Torres fought almost seven years before securing a try at the world light heavyweight title. In March 1965, he dethroned Willie Pastrano by ninth-round TKO at Madison Square Garden.

RON LIPTON

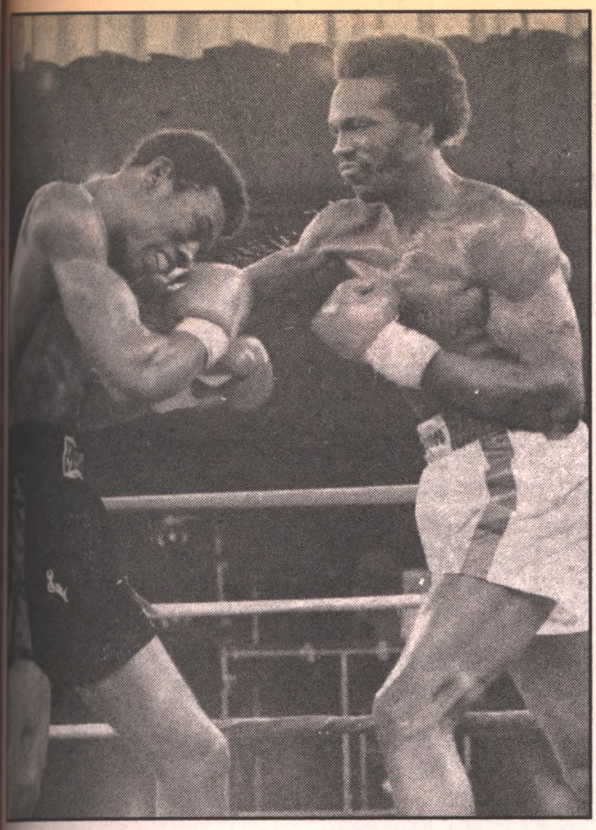
I was fortunate to have seen both men fight in person, and I followed them from early in their careers. At their zeniths, Torres and Saad would bring different strengths into the battle. The fight would pit the blinding hand speed and unusual kind of punching power of Torres vs. the determination and pressure applied by Saad.

Torres had the uncanny ability to knock down iron-chinned opponents like Wayne Thornton with punches to the liver and short rib. He destroyed Willie Pastrano, who had danced his way to victories over big heavyweights. And he took out Chic Calderwood with one over-the-top right.

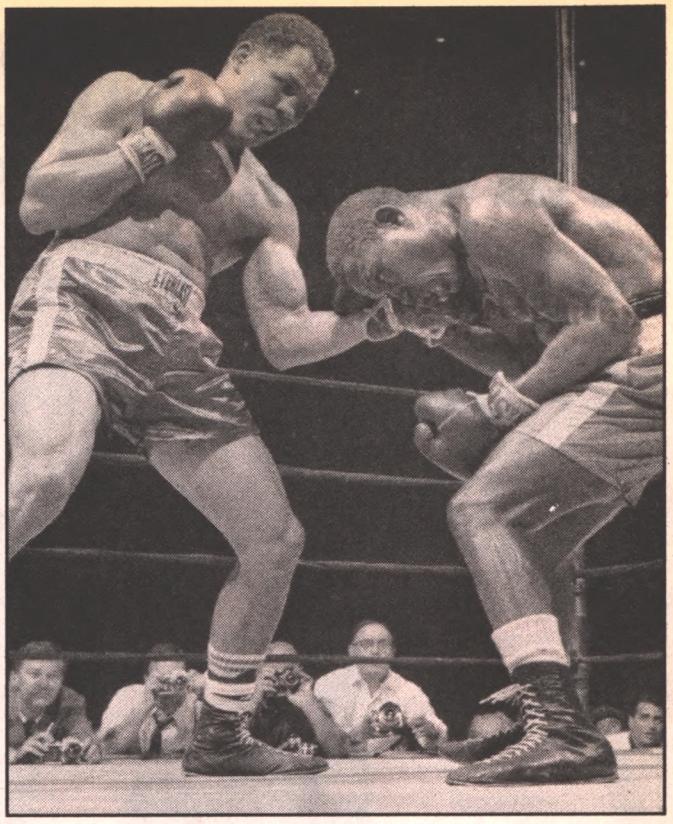
Saad made each opponent earn his pay. He was always in front of you, but he wasn't a one-shot puncher, like Bob Foster or Paul Berlenbach. His kayos came from an accumulative effect.

Torres would effectively counter to the body early. His hand speed would be the difference. Saad would be in there winging, but after a second knockdown in round seven, the referee would stop the fight. Torres by seventh-round TKO.

Ron Lipton, a former fighter, is an international referee, ring historian, and award-winning boxing choreographer.

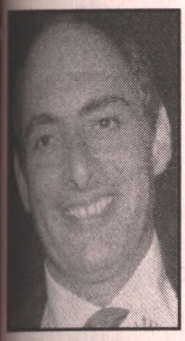


Saad Muhammad was celebrated for his ability to take a punch, not just deliver one. In February 1981, he survived the bombs of Vonzell Johnson before scoring a ninth-round kayo. He would make eight successful defenses.



After making three successful defenses, Torres lost the title on points to former middleweight champion Dick Tiger in December 1966. After dropping the rematch, he fought twice more (both victories) and then retired.

DENNIS RAPPAPORT



Torres was a very skillful fighter, but I think he was a better middleweight than light heavyweight. He waited a long time for his opportunity, and he didn't fight the type of opposition Saad faced. With Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Marvin Johnson, Victor Galindez, Jorge Ahumada; Saad was part of the golden age of the division. Torres had the edge in skills and was slicker, but Saad had better power, as well as that intangible—call it heart.

Saad made the biggest transition of any fighter I remember. He started out with a whole lotta movement, then his style changed. With the vintage Saad, every fight was a war.

Early in the fight, Torres would hurt Saad. But without being insulting to Jose, Saad had too much balls. He'd take a licking and keep on ticking, and he'd ultimately wear out Torres. For the first five or six rounds, Torres would outbox Saad. But Saad never let you rest, and in the eighth or ninth, Torres would start losing steam. I can't help but remember Torres twice losing to Dick Tiger, who was a superb *middleweight*. Saad by late-rounds stoppage.

Dennis Rappaport is a manager and promoter who, during Saad Muhammad's reign, handled perennial contender Eddie Davis.

RANDY GORDON

I don't think Torres was the greatest light heavyweight champion of all-time, but he certainly was one of the best-conditioned, most clever, all-around performers the division has ever seen. His left hand, as both a jab and a hook to the liver, was something to marvel at. I don't think Saad was the greatest light heavyweight champion of all-time, either, but he was the gutsiest, most determined, and most exciting.

Saad would set the pace, pressuring Torres from the outset. The story of the first eight or nine rounds would be Torres' jab. Saad would absorb lots of punishment, and his eyes would puff and cut. The momentum would shift in the 11th, with Torres losing some of the bounce in his legs. With blood trickling down both sides of his face, Saad would tear into Torres at the start of the 15th. Torres would be hanging on at the bell. The decision would be close—and in Torres' favor. Saad would smile, knowing that, as always, he gave everything. Torres would smile, too, mostly because he realizes he won't have to fight any more rounds against the hungriest opponent he's ever faced.

***Randy Gordon is the chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission. He is a former TV analyst and editor of* THE RING.** ■

NOT GUILTY!

Ray Mercer Finally Wins A Big One

By Robert Cassidy

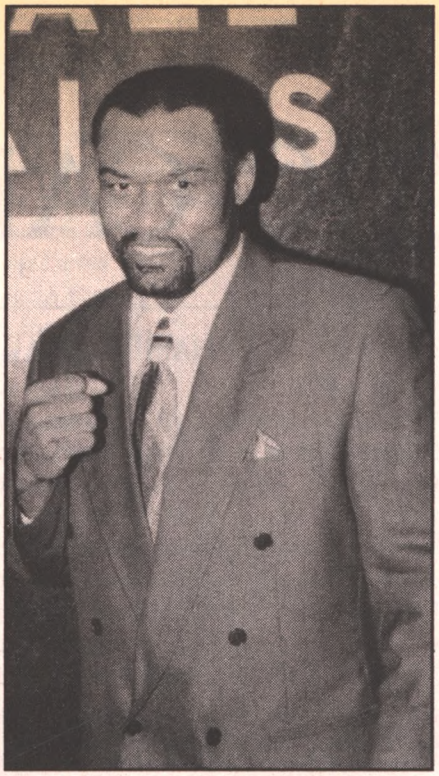
The talk going around Madison Square Garden early on the evening of February 6, 1993, was how a publicist had already printed hundreds of photos for what was supposed to be heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe's first real title defense. His opponent was to be his former Olympic roommate, Ray Mercer.

First, however, there was business to attend to. That night at the Garden, Bowe was fed 34-year-old drug-ravaged former WBA champion Michael Dokes. He didn't belong in the same ring with Bowe. On the undercard, Mercer was being fed journeyman and former sparring partner Jesse Ferguson. His chances were supposed to be no better than Dokes'.

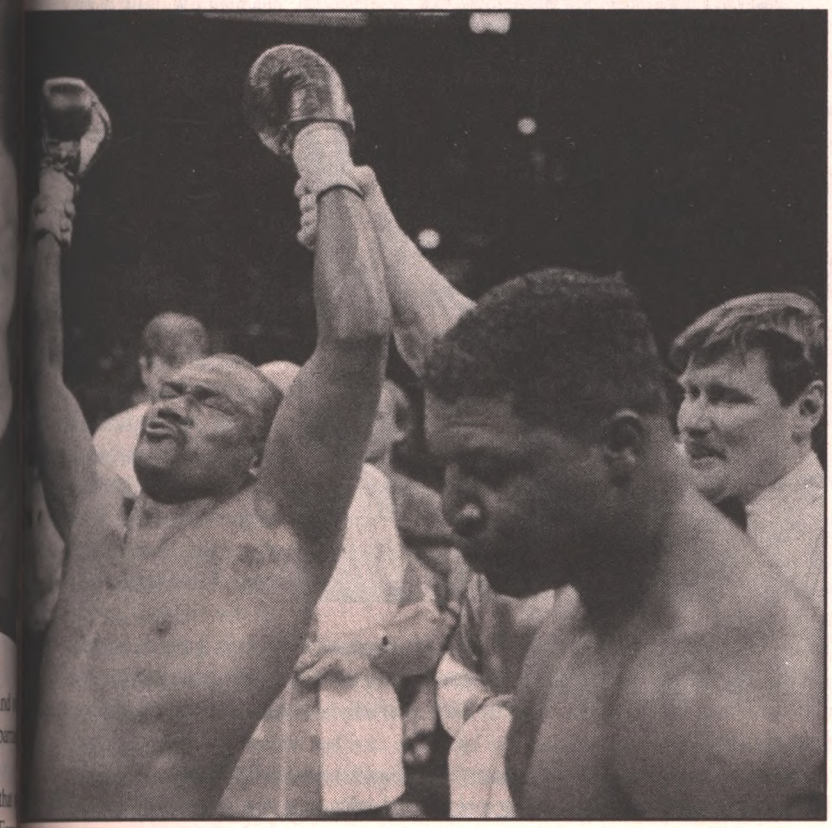
The talk later that night at the Garden turned to screams as Mercer's manager, Jack Dell, berated the fighter for blowing a $1.5-million title fight against Bowe. Out of shape and o weight, Mercer was outhustled and embarra by Ferguson.

Ultimately, though, it was the talk that w place inside the ring while Mercer and Ferg traded punches that people would remem most about that night.

As part of its standard procedure, HB which was televising the Bowe-Dokes fight, not Mercer-Ferguson, taped the main support



...cer (above left) and Ferguson (above right) will forever be linked. After Ferguson scored an upset in ...uary 1993 (below), Mercer was charged with attempting to bribe his opponent into taking a dive.



...earsal. During the fight, HBO analyst George ...eman noticed the frequent dialogue between ...cer and Ferguson. He also noticed, along ...h the other 16,000 people inside the Garden, ...t Mercer, a heavy favorite, was losing. Heard at the time by only HBO employees equipped with headsets, Foreman suggested Mercer was offering Ferguson a bribe to take a dive. But Foreman was only joking.

For Mercer, the joke turned into a nightmare. Within days of the fight, rumors began to spread that he had indeed offered Ferguson $100,000 to go in the tank. (Ferguson earned $10,000 for the fight.) Then Rosemarie Ross, a boxing writer for the *North Jersey Herald & News*, broke the story after confirming it with a member of the Mercer camp, whose identity she has never revealed—not even to law enforcement agents. The rumors quickly turned into a full-scale investigation, which led to Mercer being arrested, indicted, and charged by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office with sports bribery.

The basis of the indictment was HBO's tape of the fight and the grand jury testimony of Ferguson, who confirmed the bribe offer under oath. If convicted, Mercer faced a maximum sentence of seven years in prison. That's one more year than Mike Tyson was sentenced for rape.

Before the trial took place, Ferguson replaced Mercer as Bowe's opponent and earned $500,000 to get starched in two rounds. Then, in one of the most absurd promotions ever, Mercer earned a split decision over Ferguson in a rematch. As promoter Bob Arum gleefully hyped, it was presumably the first time in jurisprudence history that the defendant was able to legally pummel the prosecution's star witness.

The Mercer trial began in mid-March, more than a year after the fight. Mercer was accompanied each day in court by his mother, Betty, girlfriend, Kim, and trainer, Hank Johnson. He dressed conservatively, wearing gray or navy blue business suits with an assortment of patterned ties. His attitude toward the media was cold. When Ross and another reporter approached him during recess on the trial's second day, asking if he was training, Mercer, still overweight, waved them off. "I have nothing to say," he said. "I'm not training. I want to take care of this first." After lunch, the usually friendly Mercer approached the reporters and said, "I apologize for the way I acted. I just want to get through this."

The prosecution presented its case on the second day, calling Ross Greenburg, vice president and executive producer of HBO Sports, as its first witness. Assistant Manhattan District Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf began a long and tedious line of questioning, during which she drilled Greenburg on HBO's fight night operation, establishing that the network used nine cameras, six video recorders, and some 65 staffers to tape the fight.

One of the many angles pursued by the defense was that the HBO tapes were either doctored, taped over, or simply not the originals of

(Continued on page 58)

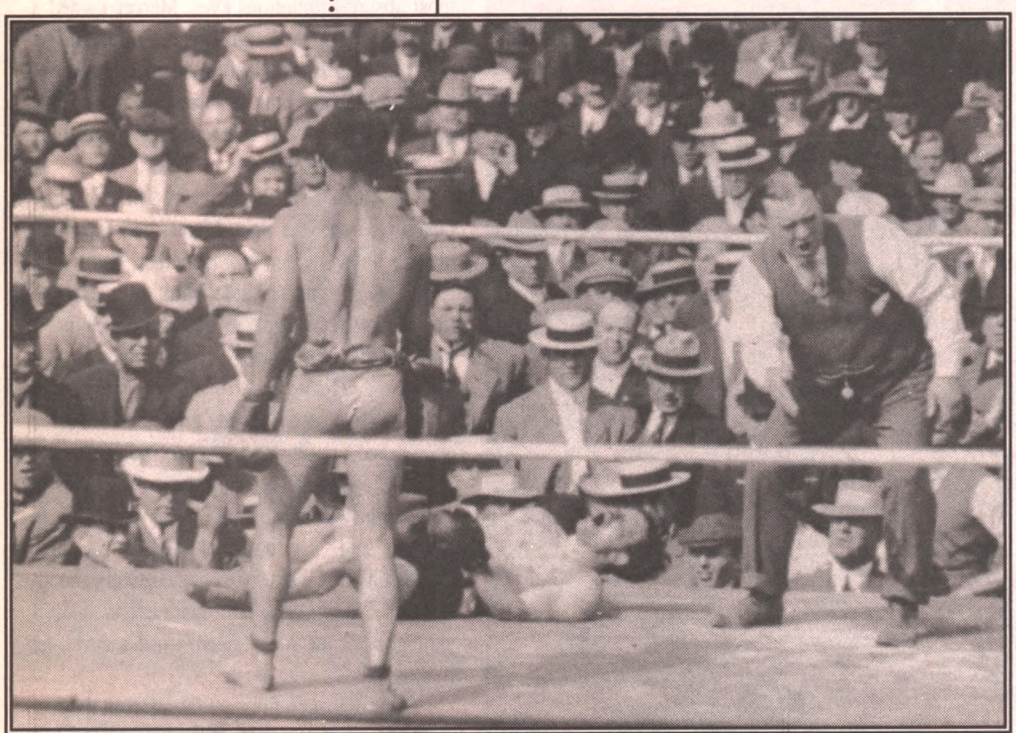
By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

Time CAPSULES

CHAMPIONS ARE DIFFERENT

(July 4, 1911)

Britain's uniquely talented boxing master and thinker, Owen Moran, found both fascination and guidance in the study of world history. Napoleon, Wellington, and Alexander the Great became his idols and role models. While preparing for the golden opportunity of his career, a chance to separate tank-like Ad Wolgast from the world lightweight crown, Moran told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "The most important difference between a preliminary boxer and a world champion is that when the preliminary fighter is taking a hard beating, chances are he will fall down. Quit. But a champion in that same situation will keep on fighting until he either is knocked out or can't hold up his hands any longer." Then, with a broad grin on his naturally pale face, Owen added proudly, "I have never been knocked down in my career."



Never a braggart but always a realist, Moran, a natural bantamweight and featherweight, analyzed his chances against champion Wolgast: "I can easily outbox him. I am faster with my hands and feet. Although we are about equal in hitting power, I have a wide edge in spotting even the smallest opening and driving through with a potentially fight-ending blow." Owen confessed, however, that Wolgast was stronger and "more durable and rugged."

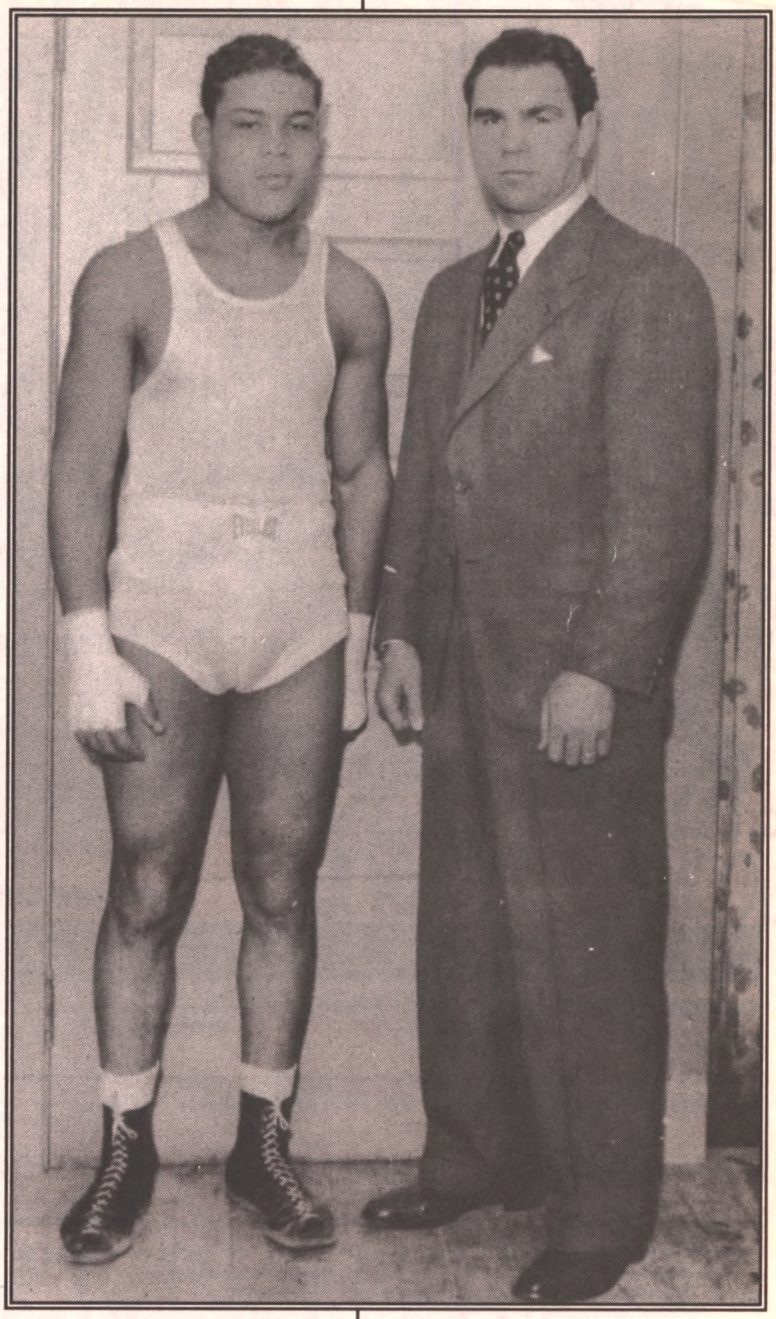
The Wolgast-Moran lightweight championship fight started just before noon on America's Independence Day, 1911, in an old, wood-enclosed outdoor arena in San Francisco. It was simply named The Eighth Street Arena. Neither the weights of the fighters nor the gate receipts or attendance were recorded. What has been passed down to us is that the champion went into the ring favored at 2-1. At 23, Wolgast had almost a four-year age advantage. Moreover, although Moran began fighting in 1901, five years before Wolgast debuted, Ad had more fights under his belt.

The prefight consensus was that Moran would bust his fists on the champion's rock-hard body, then disintegrate and collapse from a combination of exhaustion and brutality. That's exactly what happened. Ruthlessly battered from the opening bell, the brave Owen tried courageously to fight back, but hitting Wolgast was like hitting a tank. His task was hopeless, and when referee Jack Welch counted the fatal 10 over his quivering body in the 13th round (see photo), perhaps the boxer/historian took some comfort, painful as it might have been, that his theory about the difference between champions and ordinary men was indeed true.

BARRED ENTRY

(June 3, 1936)

Max Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, was a cigar-chomping dynamo who more than made up for his diminutive stature with a fiery aggressiveness and razor-sharp mind that made him the master of his trade. It was Jacobs who had more to do with Schmeling becoming heavyweight champion in 1930 than Max himself, having leaped into the ring screaming foul after Jack Sharkey had zinged a low shot into Schmeling's body and Max dropped to the floor clutching his groin in apparent agony. Now, six years later, Jacobs had maneuvered his ancient ex-champion into what he was sure was the opportunity of a lifetime—a chance to shoot down the undefeated "Brown Bomber," Joe Louis.



Louis, of course, was an overwhelming favorite to blast Schmeling all the way back to Germany without breaking a sweat, and soft advance ticket sales reflected public disdain. Most concerned of all was Jacobs; the lion's share of his payout would come from a percentage of gate receipts. "This show needs a boot in the ass," Joe complained to the promoter's publicity people. Never one to wait for somebody to lead the way, Jacobs came up with the idea of Schmeling showing up, unannounced, at Louis' training camp. When asked why, Joe snapped, "Who the hell knows? It's the best I can think of right now. You can never tell what's gonna happen. At least we'll get some pictures in the papers, and we'll take it from there."

Early on a bright Sunday afternoon three weeks before the scheduled fight, Schmeling indeed showed up at Louis' training camp in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, with his longtime pal and trainer, Max Mahon, but without Jacobs. The man collecting 50 cents from those wanting to get into the small outdoor enclosure, where Louis would first punch the bags and then spar eight rounds with three different partners, nearly swallowed the cigar stump hanging from his lips when he spotted Schmeling and Mahon in the long line stretching before him. He nervously signaled a security guard and told him to "get one of the bosses." Within a matter of minutes, Schmeling and Mahon were escorted into the main building, where they were politely greeted by a neatly dressed man who introduced himself as "the camp director, Bill Miller." Schmeling, who spoke English well, explained he was there to watch Joe work out. Then he asked, "When will Joe begin to spar?" Miller ducked the question and asked Max to wait right there until he came back.

When Miller returned, he was accompanied by Louis' co-manager, Julian Black, a very articulate gentleman who carefully explained he did not deem it advisable for Max to watch Louis' training session. Mahon had been instructed by Jacobs to expect problems, but to, at the least, "get a picture of Max and Louis together." He asked Black if that was possible. Black hesitated, but finally said he saw no problem with just a picture. "But not in public view," he added. "Wait here. I'll get Joe and a photographer. We'll take it in this room. But you will have to leave the camp as soon as the picture is taken."

Schmeling and Mahon waited about 40 minutes. Then Louis, together with Black and chief sparring partner George Nicholson, arrived. They shook hands all around, and the picture, shown here, was finally taken.

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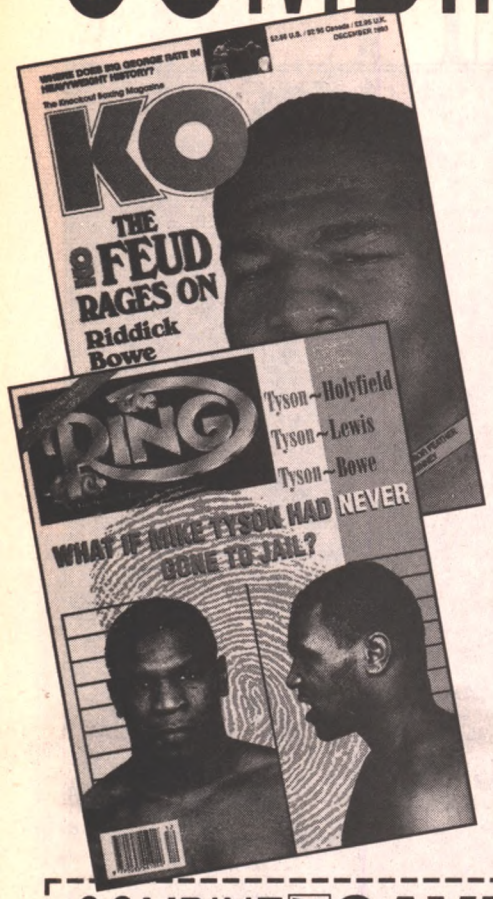

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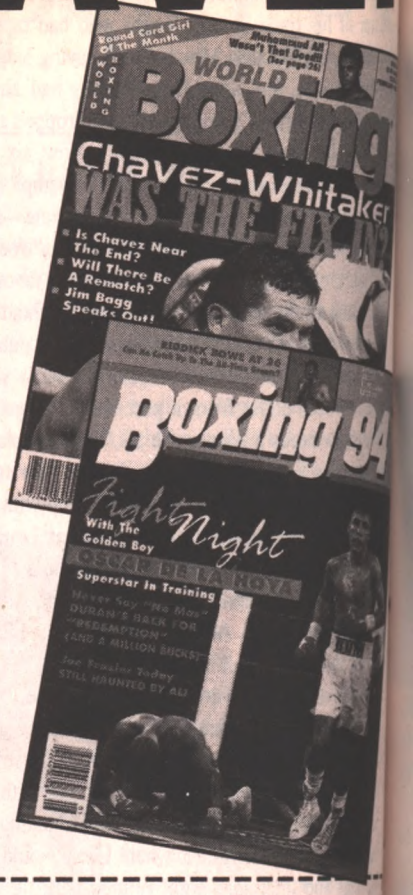

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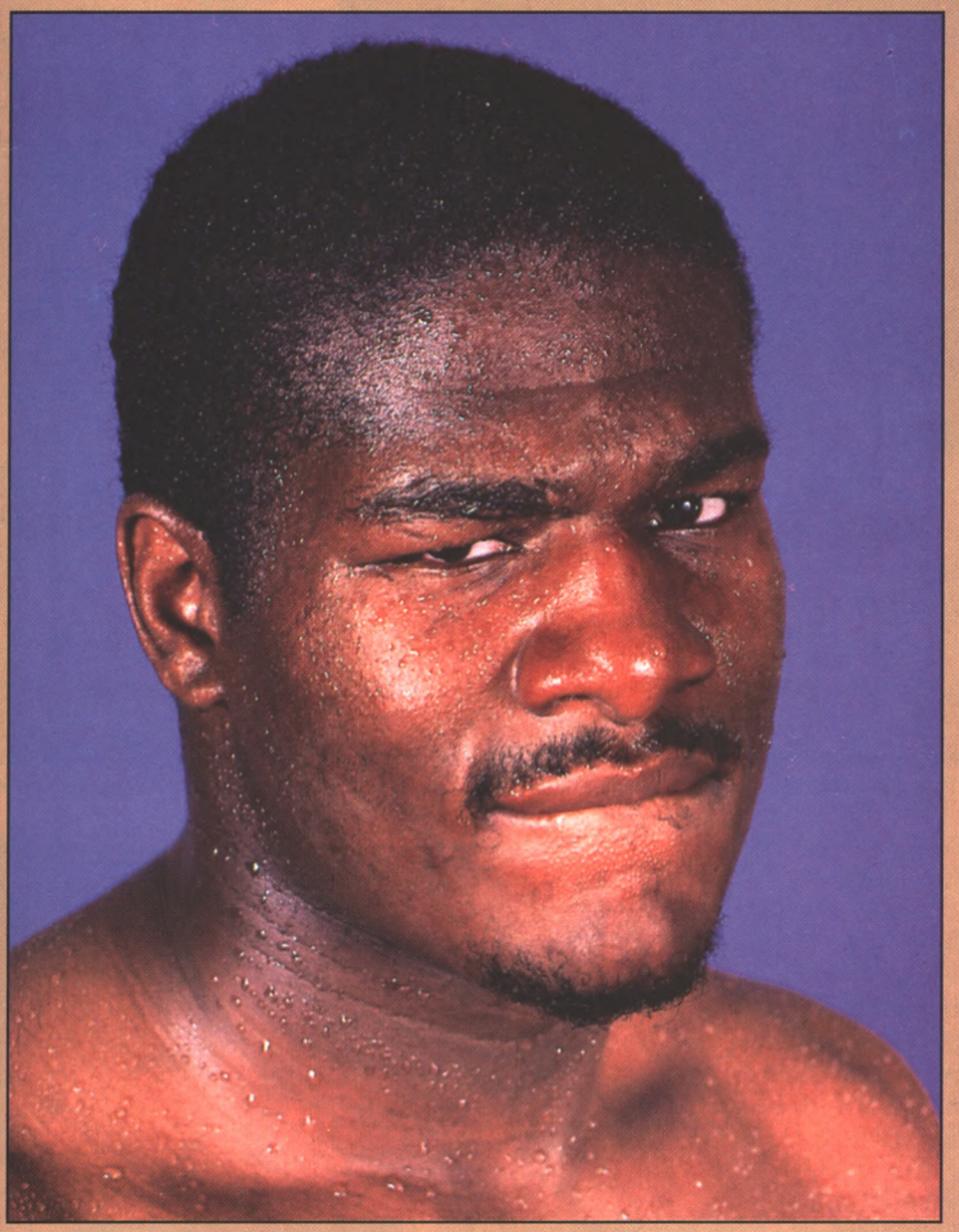

Photo by Al Bello

Determined To Do It Again

by Nigel Collins

How quickly they forget.

Before the rematch with Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe was a hot commodity, hailed as the savior of boxing, the heavyweight who would make us forget all about Mike Tyson. The media sung his praises, and plenty of folks who are supposed to know what they're talking about insisted he was all but unbeatable. Sure, there was some carping about the dismal quality of "Big Daddy's" first two challengers, but why sweat the small stuff? The man was doing underwear commercials, had a multifight deal with HBO, and was building himself a $7-million dream house in suburban Maryland. Now Bowe has to prove his mansion isn't a house of cards.

Bowe fought creditably in his rematch with Holyfield, overcoming a nasty cut and lengthy mid-fight interruption to engage in a shootout that ended in a majority decision. Still, he has to prove himself again.

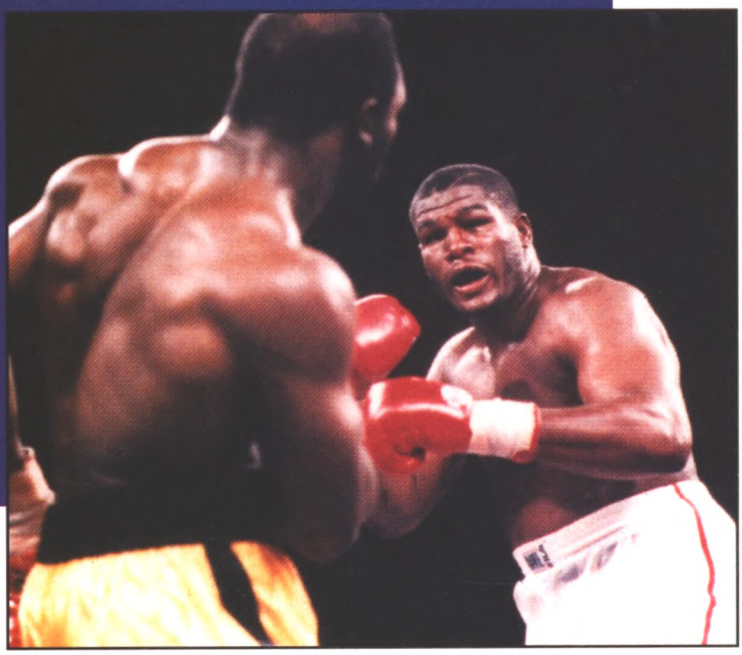

Photo by Tom Casino

When Bowe, 34-1 (29), lost the title last November, his image underwent an abrupt about-face, and both the public and press turned against him like disillusioned lovers. It didn't matter that his rematch with Holyfield had been a wonderful fight, or that Bowe had lost by only a total of three points on the official cards. Suddenly, he was a dog.

Bowe had brought most of his troubles upon himself by ballooning up to Michelin Man proportions between fights, and critics were quick to pounce. "Much has been said of Bowe's ravenous appetite," wrote Jon Saraceno in *USA Today*. "This is a symptom of something more amiss with the former champion than his mere craving of cookies and ice cream. It's a lack of self-control. It's immaturity, the I-gotta-have-it-now-and-nobody's-gonna-deny-me syndrome."

Though he admits he wasn't properly prepared for the rematch with Holyfield, Bowe feels he's gotten a bum wrap.

"People compared me to Buster Douglas; I thought that was unfair," he said. "He just laid down. I fought my heart out. Seventy-five percent of it was me not fighting the best I could. I didn't give Riddick Bowe the opportunity to be in the best shape. Maybe I should've gone into training earlier. It was the longest inactive period of my career. I went up close to three [300 pounds], and I didn't have enough time to take off what I needed to take off."

While Bowe has no one but himself to blame for his slovenly ways prior to the second Holyfield fight, it would be foolish to write him off as another Douglas. In fact, losing the title might have been the wake-up call he needed. There's nothing quite like a jolt of reality to rekindle the flame.

"Being without the title," he said, "it felt like being without my wife for six months."

"Riddick went through a difficult adjus period," said Rock Newman, Bowe's ma "He went through many emotions. At 26, from heavyweight champion of the world t mer heavyweight champion is extremely cult."

Bowe's comeback got off to a false when an eye cut suffered in the Holy rematch reopened while he was training February bout with unbeaten South Af Francois Botha. The cut required plastic sur and there was plenty of time for soul-searc Bowe's venerable trainer, Eddie Futch, knew protege was going through some heavy cha and gave him plenty of space to wrestle wit conscience.

"I thought a lot of things were obvious, didn't want to beat on those things," said F "I would rather look to the future than bel the past. I wanted to get him interested in bo again instead of some of the other things. S weeks after the [Holyfield] fight, I came dow Washington and we went to the gym. He wo for three weeks, then started sparring. On his ond day of sparring, the cut opened up. He ha have surgery, and it threw him into a fog again

Once Bowe stopped feeling sorry for him the next step was to do something about it. reached for the phone ... and the 82-year- trainer he calls Poppa Smurf.

"Sometime after the surgery he began

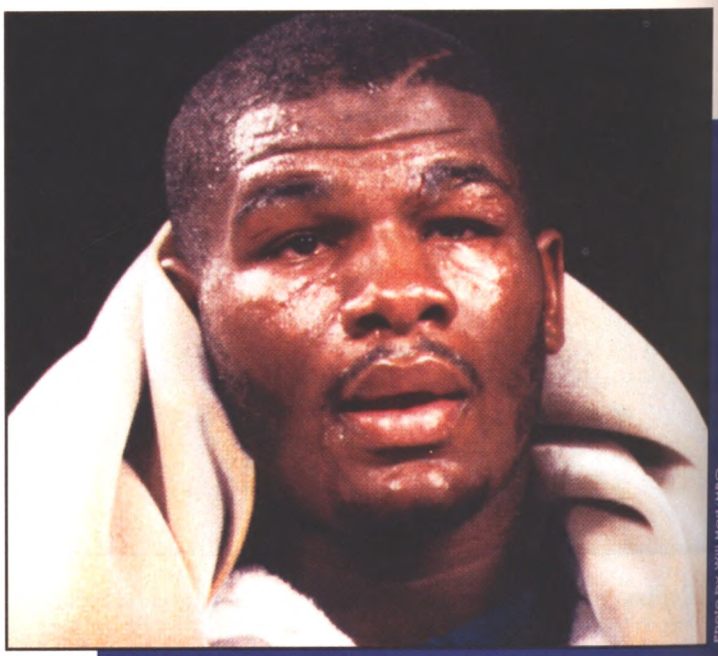

Photo by Will Hart HBO

After Holyfield regained the title, Bowe was gracious in defeat. "I was angry, but I didn't want to be a sore loser," he said.

In a three-fight summer series, Bowe hopes to regain the form that enabled him to dethrone Holyfield in November 1992. But he'll probably have to wait until 1995 for a shot at the world title.

...the drive he had before he won the title," ...Futch. "He called me at home one day and ...my answering machine. But instead of leav... a message, he kept making phone calls until ...found me. He told me he wanted the title ...that he wanted to box more than ever ...e. He's more motivated than ever. He didn't ...before how valuable the title ...Now he knows."

"Sometimes he knows me better ...I know myself," Bowe said of ...h. "That was the call I was wait... ...r. After I lost the title, I said to ...lf, 'Maybe I'll take some time ...and I did. Then all of a sudden I ...the excitement, the attention."

...f course, it's the massive amount ...ention a heavyweight champion ...es that puts him in a fish bowl in ...rst place. Every move is magni... ...Fame's double-edged sword is ...to handle, and as Bowe now ...s, the spotlight shines just as ...on failure as it does success.

There is also the seductive lure of the easy life. It can take just as much willpower to say no to another banana split as it does to shake off the effects of a left hook. But Bowe claims he's learned his lesson.

"I'm mentally stronger now," he said. "After I lost, I didn't want to do anything. I just sat around the house. It took me a while to realize I was human. I realized I made a mistake and I'd just have to do better next time."

In an effort to regain the public's favor and prove the loss to Holyfield was an aberration, Bowe has embarked on a three-fight comeback spree. *(See "Looking Ahead" on page 74.)* Originally, HBO had him penciled in for just two bouts, but apparently Bowe's appetite for fattening foods has been replaced by a craving for competition.

"Riddick was dissatisfied with fighting only two times over the summer," said Newman. "While he was filming an HBO commercial [in March], he approached Seth [Abraham] directly and expressed a desire to fight a third time."

"He used the most persuasive approach—he threatened me," added Abraham.

The importance of Bowe's next three starts can't be overemphasized. To a large degree, he's already been eclipsed

(Continued on page 54)

Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, continues to lambaste the alphabet organizations. He's particularly angry that Bowe is rated only fourth by the WBA and IBF.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Move Over, Carbajal & Chiquita

MAKE A LIL' ROOM FOR

ERIC GRIFFIN

Photos by Gary Thibe

By Tom Deedy

The first time Eric "Lil' E" Griffin battled Marcos Pacheco, in November 1993, the most brutal punch was the one not landed; in the fifth round, Griffin threw a double hook so hard that his left shoulder blade, or scapula, *split*.

Although the lion-hearted Griffin wanted to continue, his manager, Bob Jordan, wisely stopped the fight. It was Griffin's first professional loss in 10 bouts and, for a 108-pound fighter who couldn't afford a break in momentum, a crushing setback.

"When he came back to the corner," recalled Jordan, "Eric said he hurt something in the back of shoulder. I ran my hand across it and felt something sticking out. Eric said, 'I can hi with one hand.' But I told him I didn't w see him get hurt anymore. Eric started to said, 'That's it,' and stopped it. The ringsid tor said he thought it could be a career- injury."

No one was sure how to treat Griffin. Curt Spindler of Vanderbilt Univer

Griffin, a southpaw, attacked Pacheco with both hands. His left shoulder, which was injured in his first bout vs. the Mexican, presented no problems.

searched the injury and couldn't find a similar se in the national medical files of the versity's computers.) There was no surgery. ter manually adjusting the shoulder, as if ffin had suffered a dislocation, doctors immo- lized it for four weeks. Then Griffin began rub- r band resistance exercises. Next came light rk on the speedbag, then shadowboxing, and ally sparring.

Only four months after the injury, at woods Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut, ffin used all 12 rounds to earn revenge and n the NABF junior flyweight title by one-sided nimous decision. For the 26-year-old south- , the victory marked a turning point in a er full of both glory and controversy. And it nfished him as a legitimate threat to Chiquita nzalez and Michael Carbajal, the leaders of a ddenly red-hot division. There's never been a ter time to be a junior flyweight.

***

Griffin, who grew up in Broussard, isiana, and fights out of Japser, Tennessee, is nly American boxer to be a four-time world teur champion. He had more than 300 ama- r fights, developing well-honed tools, includ- his best weapon, a right hook.

"A *murderous* right hook," says Jordan.

But if the 5'3", 108-pounder reaches the top, ll be because of his mental toughness.

"I take boxing as a lot of instinct," he says. out 50 percent physical and 50 percent men-

In 1988, Griffin was disqualified from the U.S. Olympic Box-Offs after testing positive for marijuana. Gone was an opportunity to be rematched with Carbajal, who had defeated him at the Trials. He did make the 1992 team, and, along with co-captain Oscar De La Hoya, was regarded the U.S. team's best bet for a gold medal at Barcelona. But once again Griffin faced bitter disappointment. After winning his first fight, 14-2, he was robbed against Spain's Rafael Lozano when he wasn't credited for the majority of his punches under the controversial new scoring system. (Griffin clearly outpunched Lozano, and a backup team of judges scored for him by 5-0.) The eventual gold medal winner was Cuba's Rogelio Marcelo, whom Griffin had previously beaten five times.

"There's a lot of other stars in the sky," Griffin said at the time. "We'll pick one out and go for it." But the experience was not that easily dismissed. "Everyone knew I won at the Olympics," he later added. "I consider myself an Olympic champion. I worked so hard to get there. I beat everyone in the world. The Cuban is running around right now in Cuba with *my* gold medal."

Griffin was overwhelming, but equally impressive was Pacheco's ability to soak up punishment. Amazingly, he kept his feet despite absorbing dozens of powerpunches per round.

Griffin turned pro in October 1992 and won his first 10 bouts. Although he was sidetracked by the shoulder injury against Pacheco, he was fit and confident for the rematch. "I feel good," he said, "*real* good."

Griffin showed a slippery defense as well as a

(Continued on page 54)

POUND-FOR-POUND STILL THE BEST

Whitaker was masterful against Cardona, displaying most of the skills that make him the world's greatest fighter. He retained the WBC welterweight crown by one-sided decision.

Cardona, the mandatory challenger, threw hundreds of punches—and landed only a handful. Whitaker is a well-rounded fighter, but it's his defense that makes him so difficult to fight.

Photos by Tom Casino/HBO

But Can Pernell Whitaker Afford To Pick And Choose?

By Ron Borges

On the morning before he most recently defended the WBC welterweight title, Pernell Whitaker signed a four-fight deal with HBO that will pay him $18-million. One hour after his successful defense at the Scope in his hometown of Norfolk, Virginia, Whitaker was truculently saying he didn't want to fight the first opponent his new benefactors had lined up for him. Such is the way of employer-employee relations in the boxing business.

"Buddy McGirt doesn't deserve a rematch," Whitaker said not long after he'd undressed number-one contender Santos Cardona for 12 rounds in the champion's first fight since his disputed draw with Julio Cesar Chavez last September. "Not because of his performance [against Livingstone Bramble]; I didn't watch it. It's all the excuses. It's too late [for McGirt]. I don't want to fight him again. It doesn't matter who I fight. We could get a 900 number to decide who I fight next."

Whitaker could get such a number, but he might be surprised at how few people would call. Although Whitaker is widely viewed as boxing's mythical pound-for-pound champion, his popularity is not quite as wide as he and his handlers would like people to believe. Purists, who love boxing for its artistry as well as its violence, enjoy a fighter like Whitaker ("First there was Willie Pep. Now there's Pernell Whitaker," co-manager Lou Duva recently said), but fighters must have more than artistry to catch the fancy of a wider audience. Generally, to make the transition from star to superstar, they need punching power and often a hint of potential disaster. The

On the Whitaker-Cardona un card, Buddy McGirt easily boxed Livingstone Bramble (abo Instead of a Whitaker-Mc rematch, how about a slug between their mercurial manag Lou Duva and Al Certo?

30-year-old Whitaker gives his public neither.

The Cardona fight was a perfect example. In that bout, Whitaker landed 61 percent of his punches and won 11 of 12 rounds on all three cards, yet did little outward (or inward) damage to Cardona besides badly bruising his ego. Conversely, he made Cardona, 29-4 (19), look amateurish at times, forcing him to miss an incredible 674 of the 888 punches he threw. You don't see that many swings and misses in a Little League game.

Not once did Whitaker, 33-1-1 (15), seem at risk, not when his right eye puffed up in the middle of the fight, not even when he began clowning in the final round and, as he backed away from Cardona, slipped to the canvas as he was tapped on the top of the head. Despite the protests of Cardona's cornermen, it was not called a knockdown by referee Al Rothenberg. Either way it was a moot point; Whitaker had by then won nearly every round and was in fine tle. The decision was unanimous, with Franc Manzano (Puerto Rico) and Jim Traylor (U scoring 119-109 and Larry O'Connell (Eng 119-111. It was Whitaker's second defense.

Earlier the same evening, McGirt, who Whitaker his sternest test just over a year before losing a decision and the welterw title, managed to win every round from once

(Continued on pag

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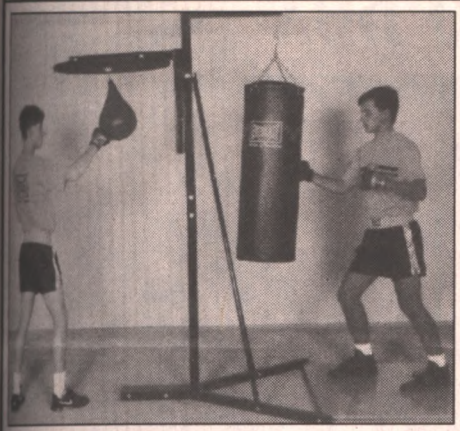

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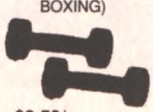

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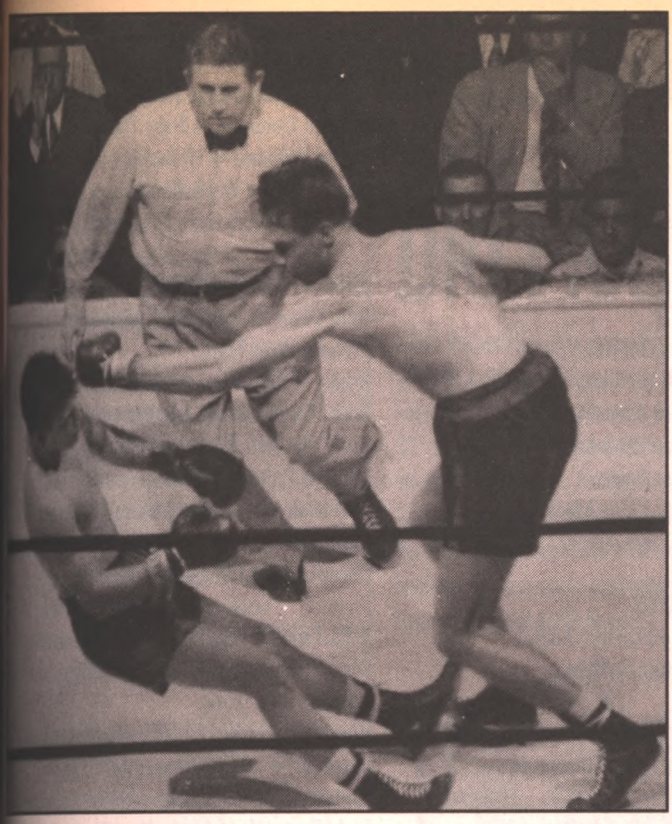
"I COULDA BEEN A CONTENDER"

ROGER DONOGHUE: THE MAN WHO TAUGHT BRANDO HOW TO BOX



On August 29, 1951, at Madison Square Garden, Donoghue kayoed George Flores in the eighth round. Flores later died of injuries suffered in the bout. Donoghue fought once more and then, no longer committed to boxing, retired.

Marlon Brando in Hoboken, New Jersey, during the filming of ***On The Waterfront****. He looked like a former fighter, and moved like one, too, thanks largely to the tutoring of Donoghue.*

By Michael Silver

The renowned film critic Pauline Kael wrote this about Marlon Brando's Academy Award-winning performance in the 1954 film *On The Waterfront*: "It is one of the most powerful American movies of the '50s, and few movies caused so much talk, excitement, and dissension—largely because of Marlon Brando's performance as the inarticulate, instinctively alienated bum, Terry Malloy."

On The Waterfront, a gritty, no-holds-barred drama of corruption and mayhem on the New York docks, won eight Academy Awards. The film, scripted by Budd Schulberg and directed by Elia Kazan, included an outstanding supporting cast. But most of all it had Brando. His Terry Malloy is perhaps the most authentically realized characterization of a down-and-out pug ever portrayed on film.

What an actor cannot draw on from personal experience and imagination, he gleans from research, observation, and instruction. It was Schulberg who suggested to Kazan that he hire a 24-year-old ex-middleweight named Roger Donoghue to coach Brando in the combination-punching and mannerisms of a professional fighter.

Schulberg knew Donoghue both as a fighter and a friend. He had followed the young man's boxing career with great interest. Fighting out of Yonkers, New York, Donoghue turned pro at age 18 in 1948, and remained undefeated through his

(Continued on page 61)

Sunset Boulevard intersects with Bash Boulevard at Rocky Marciano's training camp in 1955. From left: trainer Charlie Goldman, directors Elia Kazan and Nicholas Ray, Marciano, writer Budd Schulberg, and Donoghue.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Tommy Morrison KO 2 Brian Scott
Buster Mathis Jr. W 10 Sherman Griffin
Corrie Sanders KO 1 Mike Williams
Henry Akinwande W 10 Johnny Nelson
Bash Ali KO 9 Sean Jones
Jimmy Thunder KO 1 Don Mackay
Boris Powell W 10 Wes Turner

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Chemak Saleta W 12 Dennis Andries
Chris Byrd W 6 Exum Speight

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Henry Maske KO 9 Ernie Magdaleno
(Retains IBF Title)
Prince Charles Williams KO 10 Ernest Mateen
Frank Liles W 8 Mike Peak
Eric Nicoletta W 8 Lenzie Morgan
John Scully KO 4 Dave McCluskey

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Frederic Seillier W 10 Mauro Galvano
Juan Carlos Gimenez KO 6 Javier Rivera
Juan Carlos Scaglia W 12 Glenn Campbell
Bryant Brannon KO 1 Terry Seay

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Vinny Pazienza W 10 Jacques LeBlanc
Roberto Duran KO 4 Terry Thomas
Rafael Williams W 10 Joe Gatti
Neville Brown W 10 Wallid Underwood
Richie Woodhall KO 6 Greg Lonon

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Ricardo Nunez
(Retains WBA Title)
Winky Wright KO 1 Armando Herrera
Javier Castillejo KO 3 Valentino Manca
Tony Marshall W 10 Aaron Davis
Ludovic Proto KO 1 Jesus Garcia
Paul Vaden W 12 John Montes
Jaime Llanes KO 9 Young Dick Tiger
Oscar Checa KO 1 Farrid Bennacer

WELTERWEIGHTS
Pernell Whitaker W 12 Santos Cardona
(Retains WBC Title)
Buddy McGirt W 12 Livingstone Bramble
Oba Carr W 10 Francisco Cuesta
Anthony Jones W 10 Roger Turner
Todd Foster KO 6 Mark Hammon
Jeff Malcolm W 12 Sovita Tabuarua

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Corey Johnson W 10 Mario Morales
Valery Kayumba W 8 Eduardo Jacques
Mike Evgen KO 3 Hector Ramirez
Louis Ramirez D 10 Rodrigo Cerda
Brandon Croly W 10 Ricky Lehman
Pepe Reilly KO 3 Sergio Baez

Llanes (left) survived an early knockdown to beat Tiger

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 Jean-Baptist Mendy
(Retains WBC Title)
Carl Griffith W 12 Anthony Boyle
Billy Schwer KO 5 Edgar Castro
Shane Mosley W 10 Oscar Lopez
Johnny Avila KO 8 Bobby Brewer
Ivan Robinson KO 1 Eugene Dundee

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jesse James Leija KO 3 Tomas Valdez
Reggie Tuur W 10 Boris Sinitsin
Floyd Havard KO 10 Neil Haddock
John Brown KO 9 Ricardo Rivera
Fred Liberatore KO 10 Mark Smith
Eugene Speed W 8 Farid Benredjeb
Jeff Mayweather KO 6 Jorge Palomares
Fernando Caicedo W 12 Lupe Pintor
Carlos Hernandez KO 7 Paris Alexander

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Stefano Zoff KO 9 Stephane Haccoun
Rudy Zavala KO 2 Corky Lonaker
Fabrice Benichou W 8 Esteban Perez Quinones
Derrick Gainer KO 1 Roy Simpson
Louie Leija KO 6 Eduardo Montez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Tracy Patterson W 12 Richard Duran
(Retains WBC Title)
Al Kotey W 8 Chris Clarkson
Frank Toledo W 10 Hector Acero

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Sergio Reyes W 10 Javier Diaz

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Seung Koo Lee
(Retains WBA Title)
Johnny Bredahl W 12 Eduardo Nazario

FLYWEIGHTS

Michael Carbajal KO 3 Abner Barajas
Isaias Zamudio KO 1 Armando Torres
Johnny Tapia KO 4 Jaime Olvera
Oscar Arciniega W 12 Miguel Martinez

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Yuichi Hosono W 10 Mashide Makiyama
Tomonori Tamura W 10 Pretty Boy Lucas
Juan Cordoba W 12 Pablo Tiznado

STRAWWEIGHTS

Chana Porpaoin W 12 Carlos Murillo
(Retains WBA Title)

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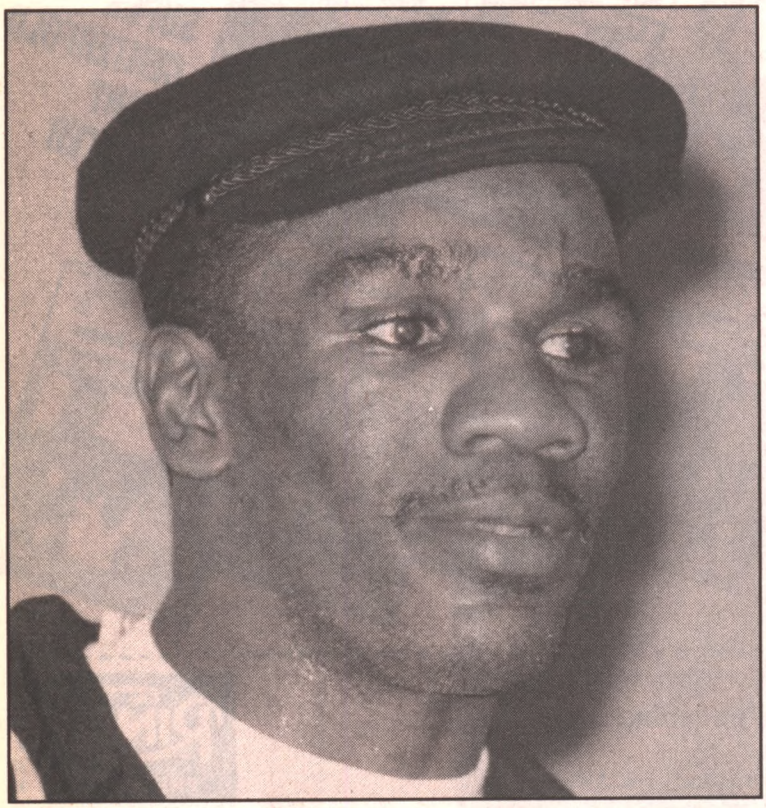
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

There were plenty of title fight winners this month, including Tracy Patterson, who boxed neatly against Richard Duran, Juan Coggi, who rose from the floor to crush Eder Gonzalez, and Pernell Whitaker, who dazzled Santos Cardona. But no one was more impressive than Williams, who earned a try at IBF super middleweight champion James Toney by outclassing the previously unbeaten Earnest Mateen in Robinsonville, Mississippi.



Against Mateen, Williams, 36-5-2 (27), flaunted the skills that make him one of the most complete fighters in the game. His jab was his dominant weapon, but he also slowed Mateen, 21-1-1 (8), with big right hands, outworked him in close, and displayed a superior defense. At the 1:11 mark of the 10th round, Mateen's corner surrendered; their fighter's left eye was swollen almost shut, and he was no longer competitive.

Williams may not be good enough to beat Toney. But if he pulls off an upset, his entry into the pound-for-pound ratings will have been long overdue.

••••

Prince Charles Williams

Gonzalez was unmarked, but Coggi was the winner

Juan Coggi KO 3 Eder Gonzalez

Las Vegas, Nevada: With blood streaming from a deep cut on his left eyelid, WBA junior welterweight champion Coggi, 140, Brandsen, Argentina, avoided an imminent stoppage with a furious desperation assault, dropping and stopping Gonzalez, 140, Madrid, Spain, via Turbo, Colombia, at the MGM Grand's Garden Arena. It was the champion's sixth defense of his second reign.

After Coggi knocked out Gonzalez in the seventh round last December, the WBA ordered an immediate rematch. In round two, Gonzalez had floored the Argentine and apparently halted him. But referee Isidro Rodriguez intervened on Coggi's behalf, issuing a long count, interrupting Gonzalez' finishing flurry, and then shortening the round. The WBA banned him for life.

The rematch was no less dramatic. Two minutes into the opening round, the 29-year-old Gonzalez connected with a looping right to the southpaw champion's chin. Coggi, 32, fell but lasted the round without absorbing too much further damage. In fact, he landed two rights and a left before the bell.

In the second, Gonzalez, 22-5-1 (15), set the pace, but Coggi, 66-2-2 (41), countered well. Early in the third, Gonzalez landed a right, opening a gaping wound that would require 15 stitches to close. As soon as he felt the blood on his face, Coggi's rage was instant. He smashed the Colombian into the ropes with a combination to the head, then dropped him with a snapping left. Gonzalez wasn't fully erect until referee Richard Steele (USA) counted to eight. Coggi followed with a right-left, and Gonzalez began to bleed from the nose. Just as Gonzalez reached to try and grab Coggi, the champion erupted with an eight-punch combination of hooks and uppercuts. Gonzalez fell again, and Steele called the fight off at the 2:01 mark. (Just before the second knockdown, Gonzalez' corner threw a towel into the ring, but Steele chose to ignore it.)

"This was do or die, and you did it," promoter Don King said to Coggi. "A warrior like you can fight for me anytime."

Said Coggi, "I know the cut came from a punch. This was one of the worst since I turned pro; the blood was getting in my eye."

The judges were Art Lurie, Jerry Roth, and Dave Moretti (all USA).

Coggi earned $50,000 and Gonzalez $15,000.

(3-18-94)

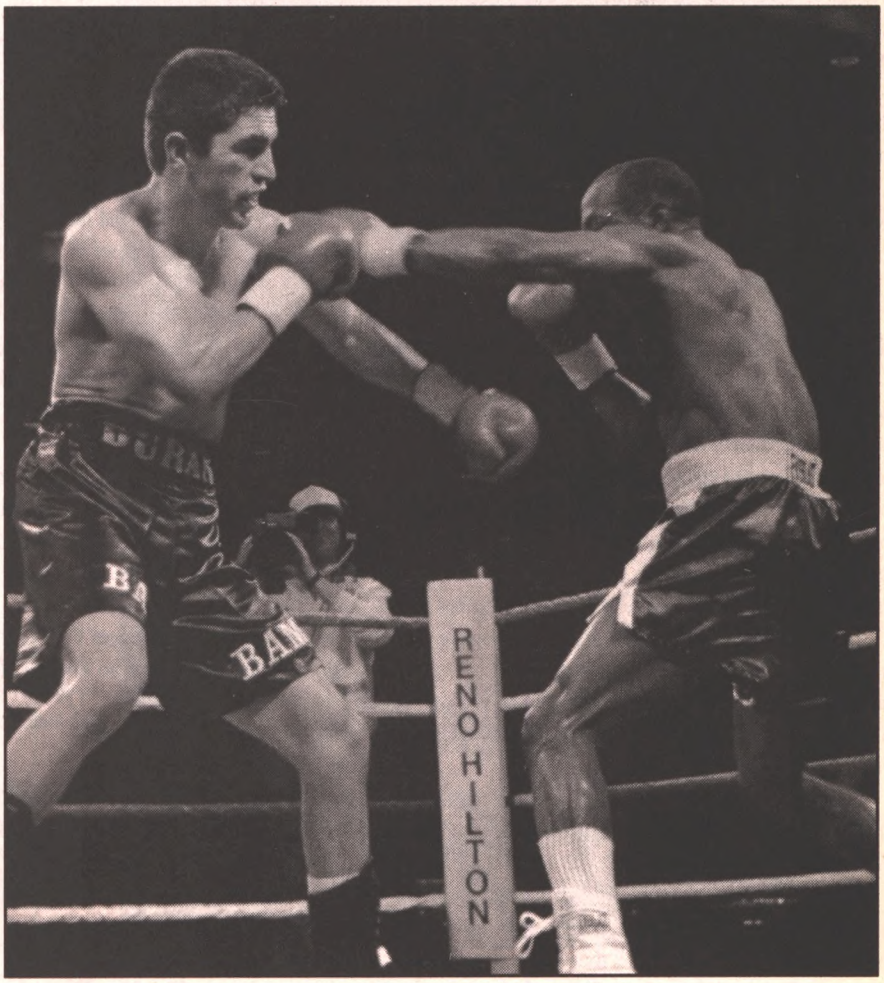
Jack Welsh

Tracy Patterson W 12 Richard Duran

Reno, Nevada: WBC super bantamweight champion Patterson made his fourth defense by scoring a unanimous decision in front of 1,600 fans in the first title fight held at the Reno Hilton.

Patterson, 122, Highland, New York, surprised Duran, 121, Sacramento, California, by boxing throughout much of the fight and rarely getting into the toe-to-toe exchanges that had been a trademark. Patterson set the tone in the first, scoring well with his jab and a right to the jaw late in the round. Duran came back to edge Patterson in the second, but the champion, 50-2-1 (36), regained control in the third, keeping his jab in Duran's face, as he would for much of the bout. Duran, 27-2 (13), wobbled Patterson near the end of the fourth with a solid left hook to the jaw, but failed to capitalize on his advantage.

Patterson reestablished control in the fifth, then opened a cut on Duran's



Patterson outboxes Duran, then challenges McKinney

left eyelid late in the sixth. Will Edgington, Duran's cutman, prevented the injury from becoming a serious factor, but with the exception of the ninth, when Duran scored with several good blows to the face, the challenger was unable to punch effectively. The last three rounds saw Patterson's jabs and quicker hands more than compensating for anything offered in return by Duran.

Dave Harris (USA) scored 118-110, Dave Brown (Canada) 117-112, and Keith MacDonald (USA) 116-112. THE RING favored Patterson by 116-112. The referee was Mills Lane (USA).

Afterward, former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson told reporters, "I told my son to box him all the way. This is the best I've seen him box."

The winner challenged IBF champion Kennedy McKinney, who was present at ringside, saying, "Bring him on." Replied McKinney, "You wouldn't go six rounds with me." The camps exchanged a few more remarks before nearly getting into an altercation.

Duran, a decision loser to McKinney last April, was gracious in defeat, thanking Patterson for the opportunity and telling reporters, "I'm disappointed, but I'll be back."

Promoters: Garden State Boxing; the Reno Hilton, in cooperation with the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority

(4-9-94)

Steve Nicolaisen

Nazarov Olzubek W 12 Dingaan Thobela

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Japan-based Russian Olzubek retained the WBA lightweight title for the first time, out-thinking, outboxing, and outpunching Thobela in a return match before 3,500 fans at the Carousel Casino. Olzubek had taken the title on points last October.

Local favorite Thobela, 134½, started off well enough over the first four rounds, catching Olzubek, 134, with stinging rights that caused the champion's left eye to puff up. But from the fifth to the finish, it was one-way traffic, with the Russian dictating terms to the last bell.

Thobela, 29-3-1 (16), had no answer for the southpaw champion's hooks to the body. Olzubek, 19-0 (14), moved in and out quickly, and often used the illegal tactic of cuffing Thobela with his right glove and digging in lefts to the midriff. Surprisingly, referee Carlos Berrocal (Panama) never issued a warning.

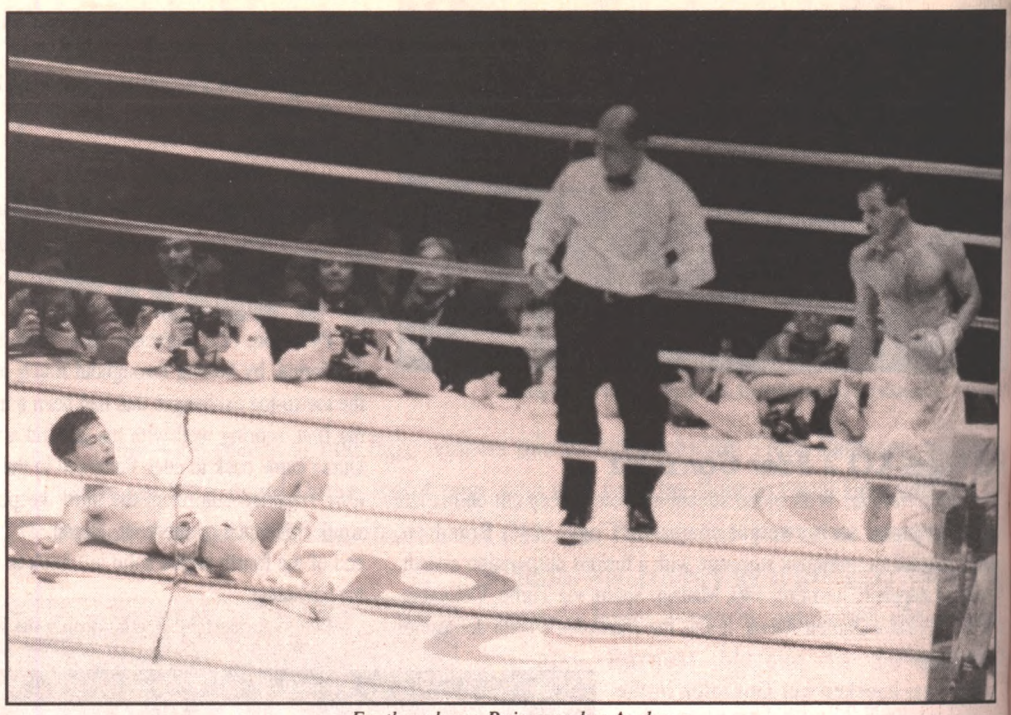
Olzubek scored the bout's only knockdown in the seventh, felling Thobela with a left to the jaw. "The Rose Of Soweto" rose on shaky legs but was saved by the bell.

While it is fair to question Thobela's dedication—in the weeks before the fight, it was rumored the challenger was struggling to make weight—he showed courage in lasting the 12 rounds. He also showed, however, that he still cannot find the right tactics to fight a southpaw.

Kazuma Kuwata (Japan) scored 118-108, Arturo Sanchez (Mexico) 118-110, and Luis Rodriguez (Venezuela) 118-111.

(3-19-94)

Ron Jackson



Feather champ Rojas crushes Asakawa

Eloy Rojas KO 5 Seiji Asakawa

Kobe, Japan: Hard-punching Venezuelan Rojas, 124¾, retained the WBA featherweight title for the first time, stopping Orient & Pacific champion and local favorite Asakawa, 126, at 48 seconds of the fifth round before a crowd of 7,800 at World Memorial Hall.

The 26-year-old Rojas, who dethroned long-reigning Yung Kyun Park last December, seemed intent on finishing the challenger in one or two rounds. Asakawa survived the initial attack, then rallied to batter Rojas with roundhouse blows in the third. Just before the bell, however, Rojas connected with a counter left hook, and Asakawa, 26, returned to his corner on rubbery legs.

Rojas, 28-1-1 (24), regained control in the fourth, then dropped the shorter Asakawa, 23-4-1 (17), in the fifth. The Japanese barely beat the count of referee Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand). Shortly after a second knockdown, Asakawa's corner tossed a towel into the ring, prompting Prayadsab to call a halt.

The judges were Larry Rozadilla (USA), Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea), and Alejandro Rochin (Mexico).

(3-19-94)

Joe Koizumi

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Seung Koo Lee

Tokyo, Japan: Unbeaten but unsteady WBA junior bantamweight champion Onizuka, 115, Japan, survived a fifth-round knockdown, kept pressuring the hard-punching Lee, 115, South Korea, and earned a close but unanimous decision at Ryogoku Sumo Arena. It was Onizuka's fifth defense.

The 22-year-old Lee was a substitute for the WBA's number-one

nder, countryman Hyun Chul Lee. He seemed outclassed over the first rounds as the taller champion displayed faster jabs and better footwork. the closing seconds of the fifth, however, the challenger exploded with a timed left hook, sending "Spanky" to the canvas.

The gutsy Onizuka, 24-0 (17), turned loose in the sixth and fought toe to In the eighth, Lee, 15-3-1 (11), again caught Onizuka, this time with a uppercut. The Japanese fell to the ropes but kept his feet. Lee tried for finish, but Onizuka fought back with strong bodyshots.

Over the last four rounds, the soft-punching Onizuka took the initiative. who hadn't fought in 14 months, rebounded in the 11th and took the But his late rally fell just short. Elias Quintana (USA) scored 115-112, Rodolfo Hill (Panama) and Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) 115-114. The was Rudy Battle (USA).

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

3-94)

Koizumi

ry Maske KO 9 Ernie Magdaleno

Dortmund, Germany: Boxing efficiently rather than emphatically, IBF heavyweight champion Maske, 173¾, Germany, retained the title for third time by stopping mandatory challenger Magdaleno, 173¾, minster, California, at Westfallenhalle.

Barely a minute into the fight, a straight left from southpaw caused the challenger's legs to buckle. Magdaleno, 18-1-steadied himself and avoided a first-round disaster, but the for the rest of the fight, if not the result, had essentially settled.

Another left in the third troubled Magdaleno. Maske, 23-0 continued to press behind his jab, but the Californian had moments, marking the champion's left eye. That aside, controlled the bout with ring generalship and sharp ing.

By the ninth, swelling had all but shut Magdaleno's right At the same time, blood seeped from a cut above his left After consulting the ringside doctor, referee Sam Williams halted the bout at the 2:14 mark. Afterward, Magdaleno 15 stitches.

After eight rounds, Maske led comfortably on all three cards. Judges were Cesar Ramos (Puerto Rico), Harry Davis da), and Heinrich Muhlmert (Germany).

-26-94)

rian Doogan

uel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 n-Baptiste Mendy

Levallois, France: The youthful Gonzalez, 135, Mexico didn't have matters entirely his own way but nonetheless too strong and dynamic for game European champion , 133½, Paris, dropping him three times at the Palais des Marcel Cerdan. It was Gonzalez' fifth defense.

The champion utilized an effective body assault and further ned Mendy with short, jolting head shots. But Mendy's ence, southpaw stance, and superior reach represented a ant threat, and Gonzalez had to work to subdue the man's spirited challenge.

The lightweights maintained their distance during a spect first round. Inspired by some long-range scoring and a boisterous capacity crowd, the pony-tailed Mendy, 45-5-2 (28), took the initiative during the second, driving back Gonzalez, 32-0 (26), with lefts and rights. Gonzalez gained control after an unintentional clash of heads seemed to stun Mendy. The champion immediately pounced, and a left-right sent Mendy into the ropes, which catapulted him to the floor. He rose before referee Arthur Mercante (USA) picked up the count, and the bell sounded before further damage could be done.

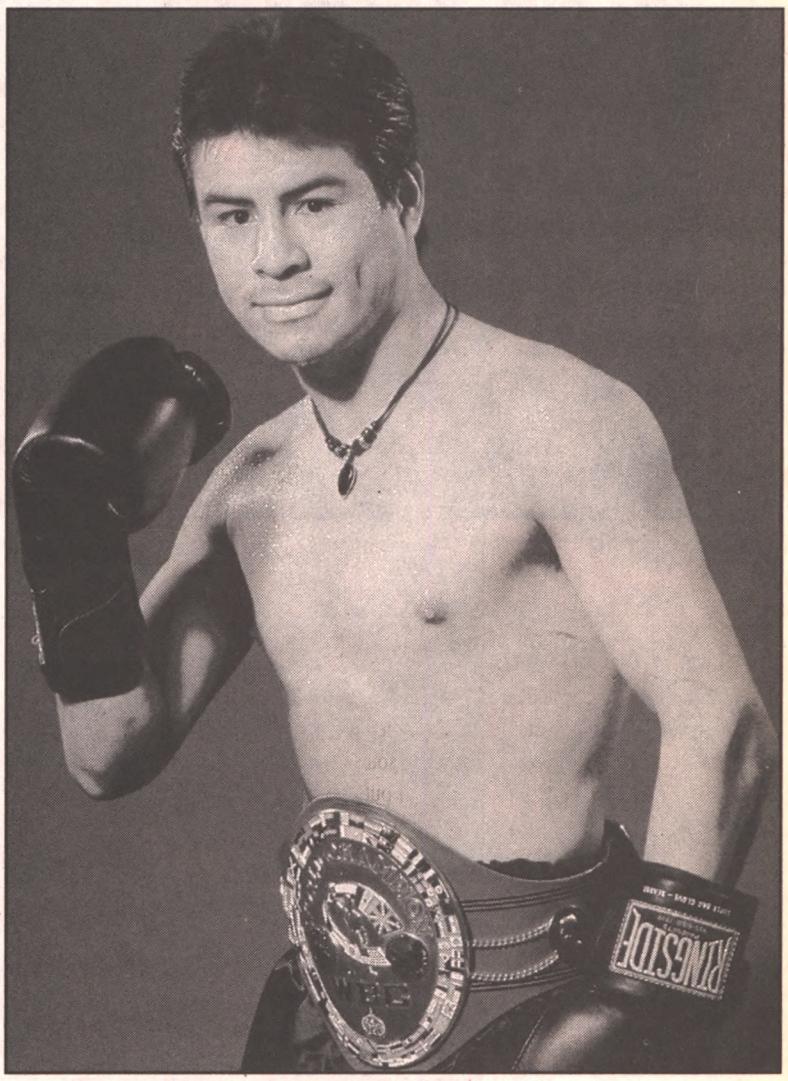
The 23-year-old Gonzalez continued to apply constant pressure in the third and fourth. Two minutes into the fourth, Mendy answered with a long left, and a heated exchange ensued. They punched furiously to the bell, which was drowned out by the roar of the crowd.

With 35 seconds remaining in the fifth, Gonzalez launched the decisive volley. Backed into his own corner, he unleashed a searing right uppercut and a combination of hooks that deposited Mendy on the floor. When a barrage put Mendy down again, Mercante stopped the fight.

"The crowd should have enjoyed it," said Gonzalez, who hopes to fight WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson later this year. "I really had to fight. [Mendy] was very determined, but I showed I am the real champion."

(3-29-94)

Brian Doogan ■



WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Camera Clicks

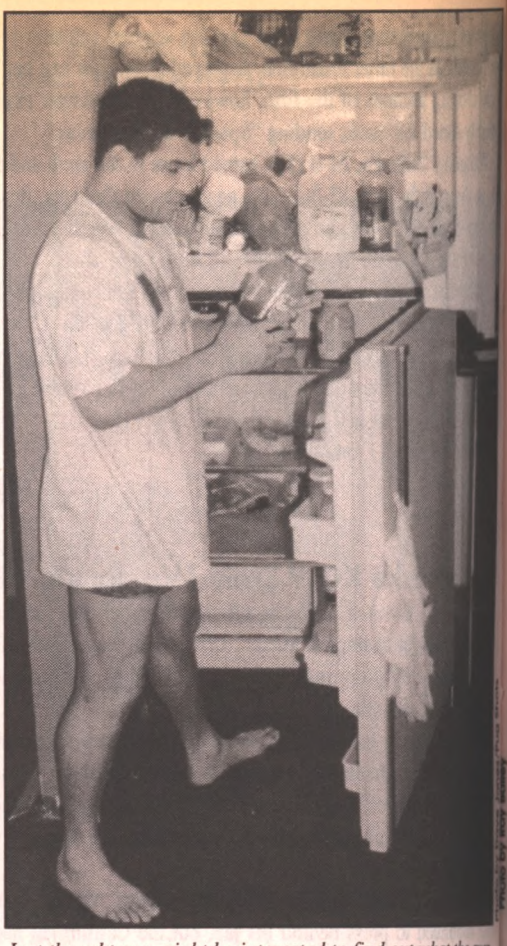
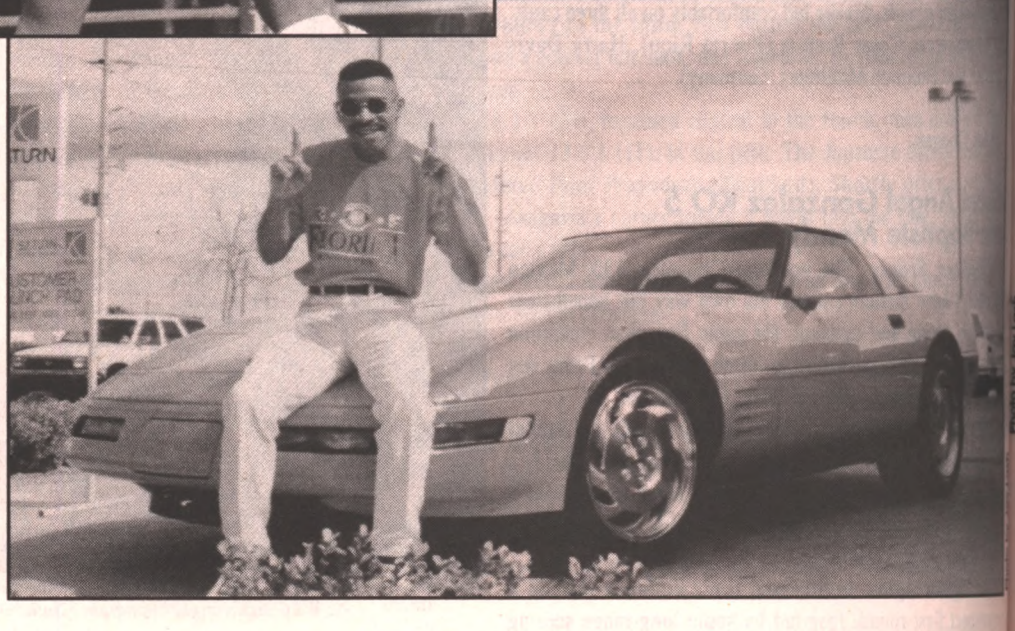


Photo by Ray Mercer

Just thought you might be interested to find out what the average former world champion keeps in his refrigerator. You think Hector "Macho" Camacho is checking for fat content?

Vinny Pazienza prepped for his showdown with Roberto Duran by outpointing Jacques LeBlanc in Ledyard, Connecticut. Let's hope Paz and Duran are as entertaining with their fists as they've been with their mouths.

Photo by Ray Bailey



Frankie Randall illustrates one of the advantages of entering a higher tax bracket. Only a few months ago, he would've settled for the bus.

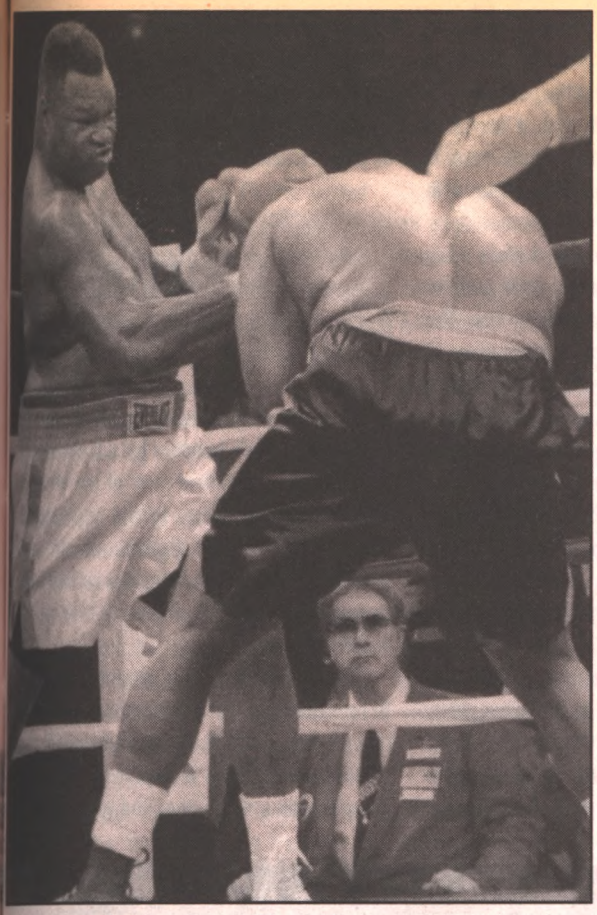


Photo by Dave Jones/Pug Shots

No, Larry Holmes hasn't retired. In March, the former heavyweight champion toyed with Garing Lane, scoring a unanimous decision victory.

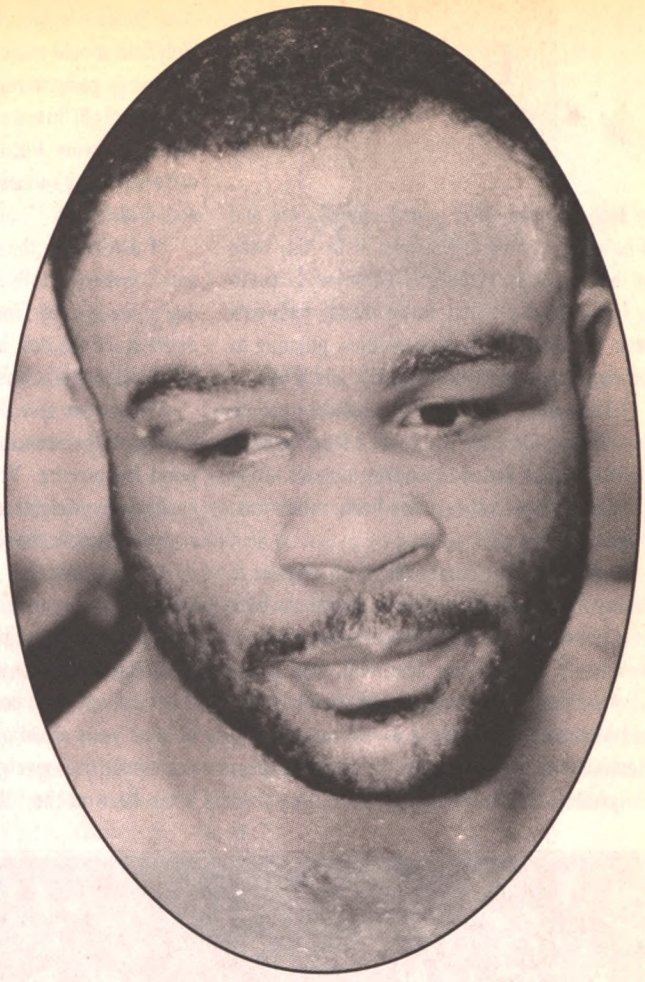


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Ouch! *WBA cruiserweight champion Orlin Norris suffered this cut during his March defense against Arthur Williams. Norris kept the crown by controversial decision.*

Promoter Don King is sandwiched by a pair of powerhitters, Willie Mays and Joe Frazier. Mays does public relations works for Bally's Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City.

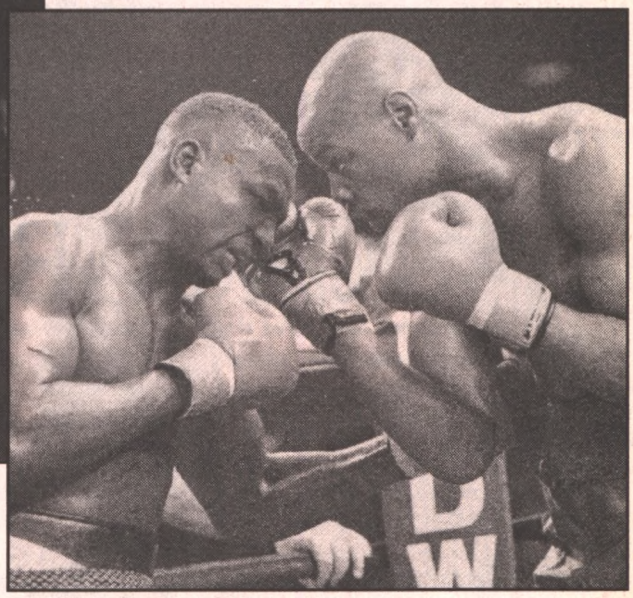


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

In a minor upset, former welterweight champion Aaron "Superman" Davis proved quite human in dropping a 10-round decision to the persistent Tony Marshall in Atlantic City. Did Marshall have some kryptonite?

Bowe

(Continued from page 37)

by Holyfield and WBC titlist Lennox Lewis, and if he's not wearing at least one of the title belts by the time Mike Tyson gets out of jail, he could be badly out of position. Bowe already feels he's been victimized by boxing politics, pointing to his number-four ranking by the IBF and WBA.

"Holyfield lost the title and dropped to number two; I lost and I'm number four," he said. "Oliver McCall [rated second] is a clown. Tony Tucker [rated third] is a has-been, a has-was. Where's the logic?"

Looking for logic in boxing is an exercise in futility, but it's true that Bowe's plunge has been overly severe. There's also the problem of Newman's long-running feud with Dan Duva, who has promotional ties to Holyfield, Lewis, and Michael Moorer. Duva is still ticked off at Newman for the manager's comments after Holyfield's less-than-impressive victory over Alex Stewart in June 1993. (Newman suggested Holyfield should retire so he wouldn't get hurt.) If Bowe is going to regain the title, he's going to have to fight his way back with a series of impressive wins. But this time his motivation is different, and success won't be measured in dollars and cents.

"I don't think the money aspect plays a big part," insisted Bowe. "If I never work another day in my life, my family and I will be fine. The desire to be the best is all that matters to me. I box because this is what I do, and what I love."

Whether or not Bowe can regain the title remains to be seen, but his return to action is good for boxing. You can't have too many quality heavyweights, and adding him to the mix can only improve the situation.

"It's gonna be an extremely exciting summer," proclaimed Newman. "It's time to make a statement again."

Compared to many former champions, Bowe is in relatively good position. At 26, he has plenty of good years ahead of him. Maybe he's not the next great heavyweight many thought he was when he won the title, but he's far from the bloated loafer the media painted after his loss to Holyfield. And besides, Bowe has an additional motive for regaining the title.

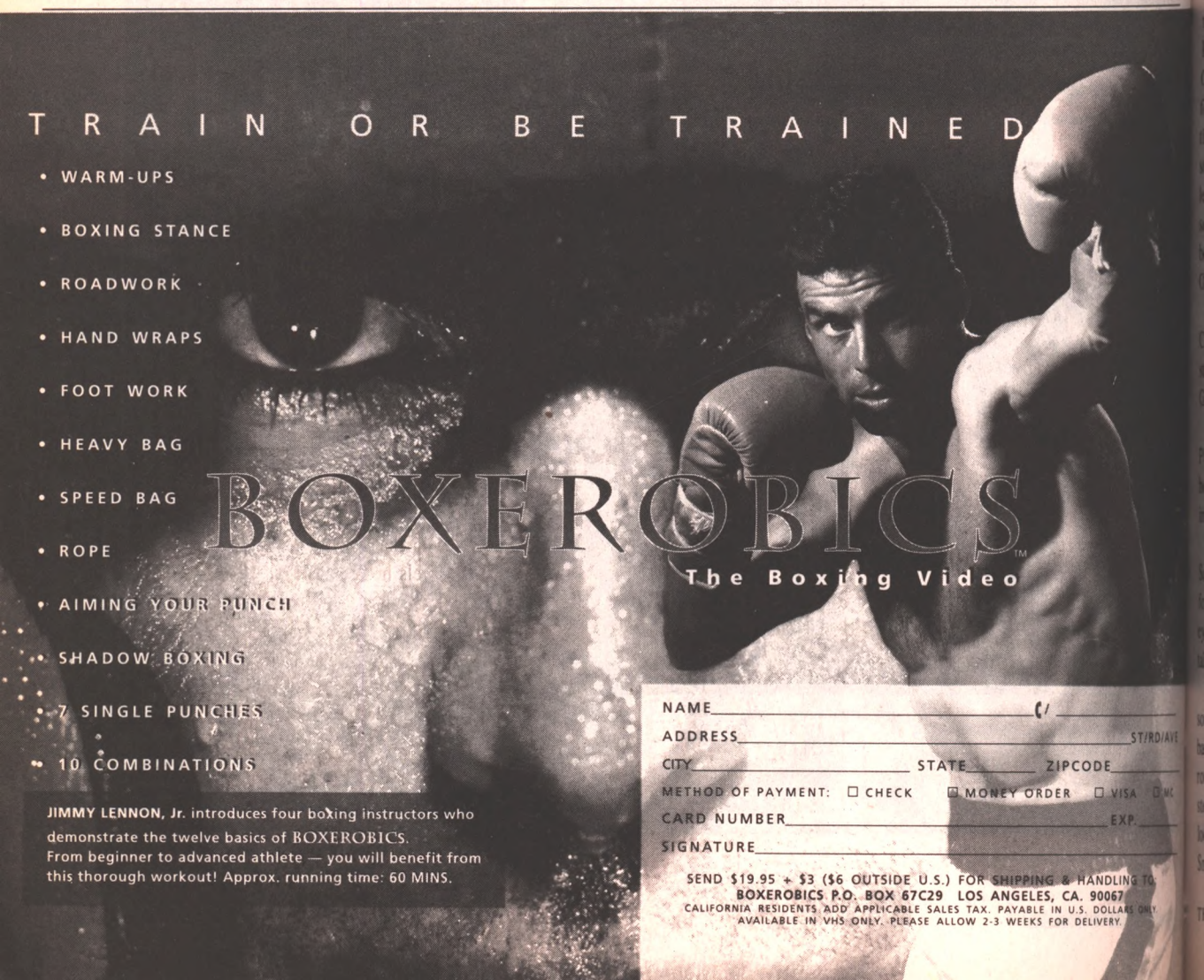
" 'Former' doesn't go good with my name," he said. "'Champ' does." ∎

Griffin

(Continued from page 39)

relentless two-fisted assault against Pacheco. He avoided Pacheco's punches by sidestepping, and he deflected or blocked most of the Mexican's attempted bodyshots. In the early rounds, however, the southpaw Pacheco was able to dig into Griffin's ribs and stomach with both hands. In response, Griffin jabbed his way in, then backed off.

The first round set a pattern for the fight. Before the fight, both junior flyweights vowed they'd duel until the end, and indeed, there would be nothing left in reserve. The feeling-out process was a short one, and it was apparent



from the start that Pacheco's jaw was made of something hard and permanent. In round two, Pacheco moved side to side, landing bodyshots with both hands and frustrating Griffin. In the middle of the round, the Mexican tossed "Lil' E" across the ring. Shortly after, Griffin landed his first telling barrage of the fight. *Crack!* A solid right hook started it off. Then a left to the chin and a left-right-left combination multiplied Griffin's confidence. Pacheco backed to a corner and picked off many of the followup blows, but when he emerged, he was bleeding from a small gash on his left cheek. Griffin was marked as well, having suffered a cut inside his mouth.

By round four, Griffin was dictating the pace. When he forced exchanges, Pacheco answered, but never with his opponent's power and style. In the fourth, Griffin measured Pacheco with three consecutive jabs, and the capacity crowd of 1,700 began a chant of "USA, USA." The fifth saw more blood; a raw abrasion at the corner of Griffin's left eye, below the sight line, began a slow but steady flow of blood.

Round six began with Griffin landing low, and referee Steve Smoger giving Pacheco a minute to recover. Upon regaining his wind, Pacheco stormed in with both hands flailing. But Griffin responded with a series of lefts (so much for the shoulder injury). Pacheco wobbled along the ropes, then managed to connect with a straight right that opened a gash above Griffin's left eye. You couldn't tell the cuts without a scorecard. Nonetheless, the sixth was Griffin's best round, with Pacheco unable to cope with the Olympian's hand speed.

Between rounds, Griffin's cutman, George Cruz, did a facile job. He quickly and neatly stopped the blood flow, which was no easy task; Griffin would later require 20 stitches.

Over the next three rounds, Griffin tested Pacheco's chin with left uppercuts and right hooks. He knocked loose Pacheco's mouthpiece in the seventh, and again in the eighth.

"Are these Mexicans tough or what?" asked Smoger afterward. "I was going to stop the bout at different times, but every time I checked his eyes, he was still there, focused, and I couldn't take the opportunity from the guy."

In the ninth, a crunching left hand that sounded like an ax hitting an oak tree snapped back Pacheco's head and left him loitering on the ropes. Still, he endured, and in the 12th he stepped on Griffin's foot and shoved him. It looked like a knockdown from most angles, and Smoger treated it as such. During the count, Griffin bounced on his toes and smiled a menacing, bloody grin.

"It was one guy with power and one guy with stamina and heart," said Smoger. "Thank God they both walked away all right."

The scores reflected Griffin's dominance of an experienced, battle-tested foe. (In 1992, Pacheco went the distance in a losing effort vs. defending IBF champion Carbajal.) Tom Kaczmarek voted 119-107, and both Dr. Clark Sammartino and Jean-Claude Theroux 119-109. When the verdict was announced, Griffin jumped into Jordan's arms in the center of the ring. He knew the end of the fight marked a beginning, a fresh start.

"I didn't get the gold in the Olympics, but this victory is my gold medal," he said. "As the fight went on, once I was ahead, my manager kept telling me, 'Keep doing what you're doing.' And once I got to the 10th and 11th, I just boxed. I knew I wasn't gonna knock him out, so I did what I know how to do."

***

Griffin is eager. Jordan is eager. Art Pellulo of Banner Promotions is eager. He wants to match Griffin with Venezuela's Leo Gamez, the WBA champion, at Foxwoods in September or October. For Griffin, the shoulder is no longer a concern. Moreover, he continues to make weight easily. It's time for bigger opportunities and bigger paychecks; Griffin was paid $6,000 for the Pacheco fight. When Griffin was preparing to go for the gold in Barcelona, Lou Duva said that if the junior fly won the gold medal, he just might split $1-million with then-world champion Carbajal in a showdown of Olympians. And Duva was talking about Griffin's *pro debut.*

When asked about the possibility of a series of unifying bouts at 108 pounds, Griffin grinned and said, "Absolutely. Can't wait. But for now, this is sweet. Sweet like eating fruit."

For a fighter who's overcome a career's worth of handicaps before logging a dozen pro fights, it might seem like a tempting time to sit back and relish the sweetness. But Griffin doesn't want to sit any longer. He just wants to fight because for the first time in a long time, the future is bright.

"I've had to slow down the pace and not rush so much," he said. "I've learned to be patient. There have been all kinds of frustrations, including the Olympics and family problems. All kinds of things were on my mind. Now I have to just stay focused."

Or, as Jordan put it, "I don't believe in jinxes. Like Nietzsche said, 'Anything that doesn't kill you makes you stronger.'" ■

Tom Deedy is a freelance writer based in Quaker Hill, Connecticut.

Whitaker

(Continued from page 42)

liant defensive fighter and former lightweight champion Livingstone Bramble (two scores of 120-108 and 119-109). Time has passed the 33-year-old Bramble by, which was part of the reason McGirt, 62-3-1 (44), was able to hit him with 65 percent of his punches. But it was not the only reason. Significant was the return of McGirt's left hook, which had disappeared more than a year earlier when he tore a tendon in his shoulder.

After Bramble's defeat, a poignant scene was played out on the steps leading to his corner, where his young son, Aluja, shouted, "Dad! You didn't hit him! You let him throw combinations at you."

"I tried to hit him," the former champion said softly, a gentle smile on his tired face. "He kept moving backward."

"But he was hitting you like this," Aluja continued, his arms slicing the air with frenzied combinations. "You should have done something."

"My son," said Bramble, 36-13-3 (23), "he hits a little harder than you."

When McGirt lost the title to Whitaker, he was a man fighting with only half his arsenal, the hook having been disarmed, so to speak, by a shoulder injury that would require major surgery a week after the bout. Before the fight, there had been much whispering about McGirt's condition, but he denied any injury. After the defeat, it was all he and manager Al Certo could talk about. Not surprisingly, this didn't set well with Whitaker.

That is what has irked the champion, who feels he won the fight and should have been given full credit rather than an incomplete, which is all Certo conceded him—at best.

"I'll kiss Lou Duva's ass in Macy's window at noon if Buddy doesn't beat Whitaker in a rematch," Certo said recently. Comments like that have made Whitaker so unwilling to grant McGirt the next shot at him.

Judging by what Whitaker has had to say lately, he may not change his mind anytime soon,

(Continued on page 57)

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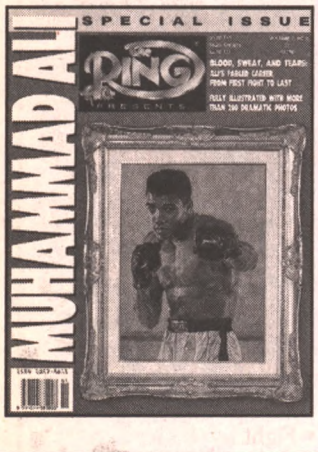

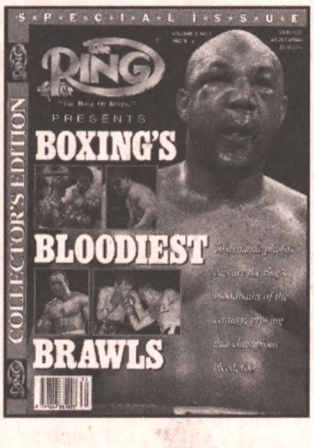

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Whitaker

(Continued from page 55)

en with the added pressure of HBO's ecutives bearing down on him to agree to an ly-fall rematch. Since he has been crowned und-for-pound, he has developed an odd itude.

"I'm not fighting for titles anymore," itaker said. "Those other guys can have all the es. I'm fighting to be the best ever. I'm ished proving who I am. Who I fight, if I fight, going to be my decision. I don't care what body else wants. All those guys need me. I'm pressing to fight any of them because I don't ed them."

On the one hand that might almost sound gical, but it rings hollow because if Whitaker is ting "to be the best ever," how can he avoid cGirt's challenge, especially when he has eady made it clear that he has no desire to go in weight and challenge any of the junior ddleweight or middleweight champions?

Again, logic alone brings him back to cGirt, and his handlers know it.

"It was McGirt's choice to fight," said itaker's co-manager, Shelly Finkel. "After he t, he should have just said, 'I want a rematch.' ell is upset about it, but at this moment it still pears to be the most likely fight to happen."

That's because HBO wants it, and the fight itaker really wants, a rematch with Chavez, is but impossible as long as the Mexican remains ntractually obligated to promoter Don King, mortal enemy of HBO Sports President Seth raham.

"I'd bet on the McGirt rematch because King n't going to agree to have Chavez fight itaker," Abraham said.

That is all probably true, but Whitaker knows ough to realize his HBO contract does not ligate him to fight McGirt next. Or at all. In t, all he has to do is fight any of the reigning elterweight champions, such as IBF titleholder lix Trinidad or WBA champion Crisanto spana, or even WBO junior welterweight ampion Zack Padilla, to get paid. Then again, itaker insists he is looking for more than that. tting paid, he would have you believe, is not s sole aim anymore. His aim is continuing to y claim to the pound-for-pound title and tting himself in position to be listed among the l-time greats ... which again brings us back to Buddy McGirt.

"I wasn't at my best the night I fought Whitaker," McGirt said. "That was obvious. But Whitaker doesn't seem to accept that. When I kick his ass, he'll understand."

Whitaker has won 19 consecutive fights since his only loss, a disputed decision to Jose Luis Ramirez, which he later easily avenged. Chavez was barely able to pressure him and never came close to having him in trouble. McGirt, although a loser that night, did at least manage to give Whitaker a stiff test. In the end, that is what will force Whitaker to do what he says he does not want to do. To avoid McGirt is to begin to lose his grip on the only title he now believes counts. ■

Ron Borges is a columnist for the Boston Globe. He was the 1993 winner of the Nat Fleischer Award for excellence in boxing journalism.

Johnson

(Continued from page 16)

His role models represent that division's finest.

"Stylewise, I'm like Sugar Ray Leonard mixed with a little Tommy Hearns," he says. "They were both so great." Of current practioners, Johnson has great respect for Roy Jones Jr. He tries to emulate Jones' boxing style without showing the attitude.

That's not to say that Johnson has never rubbed his superiority in somebody's face. Last September, Johnson looked excellent against Ismael Diaz of Mexico, who was listed at 21-6. Diaz showed his experience and threw punches with authority. Johnson responded with a great body attack with a single glove. A variety of lefts thumped into Diaz' gut as Johnson beat his durable victim one-handed. Any showboating was overlooked by the crowd.

That week, Jackie Kallen had part of her Detroit stable in town for a card featuring Lonny Beasley. It turned into a Motown reunion under Phoenix chandeliers for old friends and colleagues. "We all miss him at home," echoed the team. "Corey's going to be great."

Johnson's biggest supporter comes from his camp. The welterweight is trained by gigantic Al "Blue" Lewis, who makes up—and takes up—most of his corner. Lewis knows about the top of the ladder from globetrotting as a heavyweight contender before Johnson was born. (He fought,

(Continued on page 58)

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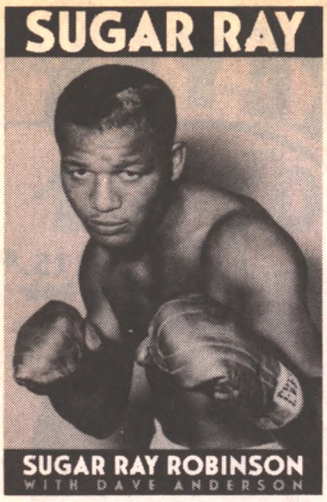

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Johnson

(Continued from page 57)

among others, Muhammad Ali.) Nowadays, Lewis devotes most of his attention to Johnson.

"I enjoy working with him," says the usually understated trainer. "It's definitely a father-son relationship; all of us come from the ghetto one way or another. Corey has a lot to do because at this stage he's still just a baby. He's coming along just right. We're trying to make him more aggressive with his jab. He can box or slug, but he's not really a puncher. I made it to number four in the world, so he's got to go all the way. I'm keeping him from falling in the same holes I did."

During fights, Lewis hovers in the corner like a huge shadow. He is bigger and louder than anyone in the building, but his protective apprehension makes him seem totally vulnerable.

Last October, Johnson took another step in a bout vs. Amancio Castro, who was 30-5. The bout occurred before a large swarm at the state fair in Phoenix. As Johnson pumped in jabs during the early moments, a relieved Lewis glanced over with a satisfied grin and whispered, "We got his ass." Johnson easily avoided his opponent's lunging attack, and a frustrated Castro challenged him to trade. Johnson's grin grew even bigger than Lewis' as he racked Castro with punches. Castro's only answer was a series of south-of-the-border shots. Lewis' face turned, well, *blue*, but Johnson remained unruffled and a gentleman throughout foul-filled clinches.

Then Johnson switched to a conventional stance, as if to say, "I can beat you right-handed." Castro made another mistake and dropped his hands in contempt. Johnson smacked him at laser speed, and Castro wobbled until a glove touched the canvas. It was not ruled a knockdown, but the point was made. Johnson racked up a clean sweep of the scorecards and was unmarked afterward. "He was real awkward and strong," he said. "I may have been able to take him out, but I never take any chances."

Manager Maling has no such luxury if his charge is to gain the big prizes. He has been a steady force, guiding Johnson with confidence and class. "He's showing great," says Maling. "I'm not in any big hurry. We'll have a couple more TV fights before making any kind of move. We're waiting to see what happens at the top, and we'll stay busy along the way."

Johnson has been keeping active with a ser of cable and satellite pay-per-view sports b shows. In March he secured further internation exposure by co-headlining a Prime Networ broadcast that was shown on a delayed basis i several countries. The opponent was Latv journeyman Mario Morales. The fighters had t walk through a heavy spring rain from a nearb resort to a huge tent, where the ring was set up There was almost a waterfall in the backgroun as ushers in tuxedos stood on chairs and lifted th tent's entrance to keep it from collapsing. Morales ended up drowning in a downpour o fists.

There may always be questions about Johnson's power, but it hasn't affected his belief in himself. "Maybe the less kayos I have, the more ranked guys will be ready to fight," he suggests. "Pretty soon I'll be in there with the big boys. But it doesn't matter who I'm fighting. As long as I stay in great condition, throw a lot of punches, and move the way I do, I can beat anybody in the world. Anybody. That's all that really matters." ■

Phil Woolever, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is a freelance writer based in Tucson, Arizona.

Mercer

(Continued from page 31)

the fight. The argument seemed like a desperate reach, especially considering Greenburg's testimony and his vast experience at HBO. But each time Mercer's lead attorney, Dominic Amorosa, a pit-bull in expensive clothes, hammered away at witnesses, he was allowing even the most remote theories to seep into the minds of the jurors. Amorosa was raising that ever-important issue of reasonable doubt.

Greenburg's most significant testimony was that HBO could only enhance the audio of the tape. "All you can really do," he said, "is increase the volume, just like you could on your TV." (HBO was also able to strip the announcers' voices from the tape.) The public and media had been led to believe audio enhancement would produce a crystal-clear version of Mercer and Ferguson's conversations. The prosecution produced five tapes and played the "Line Copy Clean" tape, the most pristine version, for the jury. The picture and sound had

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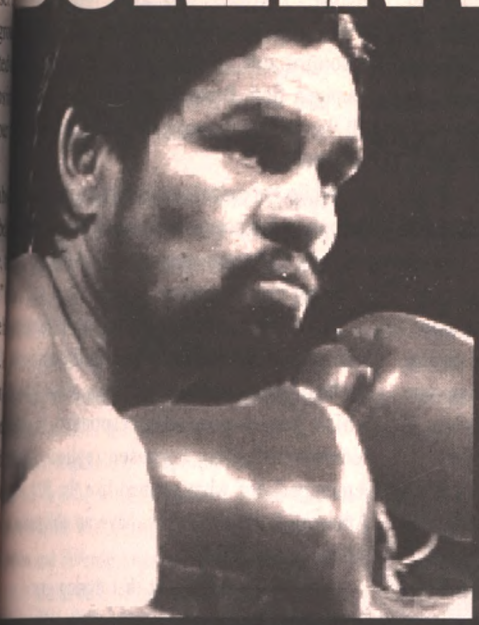

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Mercer

(Continued from page 58)

been recorded by two hand-held cameras on the ring apron, a boom microphone in each fighter's corner, a mike hanging from above the ring, and a mike pinned to referee Wayne Kelly's shirt. It wasn't enough. The audio was very difficult to understand. There were grunts and groans and trash-talk, but little evidence of a bribe.

Initially, it was Ferguson who could be heard speaking most clearly and most often. In round three, he was heard saying, "You didn't train for me, Ray," and, "Come on, man, drop me."

At another point, a transcript of the tape indicates Ferguson said, "Run it by your man." Amorosa, however, argued Ferguson was saying, "Ruined by your man." After the 45-minute tape was heard, reporters began wondering if Ferguson had baited Mercer into bribing him.

The transcript had been produced by New York State Police investigator Gus Talleur. He prefaced several statements with the letters "SL," which stood for "sounds like." Other portions were accompanied by "UI," which meant "unintelligible."

Amorosa sharply criticized the accuracy of the transcript and suggested Talleur had shaped it to fit the prosecution's case. Ultimately, Judge Jeffrey Atlas ordered the 13 "SL" references to be removed from the transcript. Before the jury was issued copies of the transcript, Atlas told them, "It is your view of what is on that tape that counts the most, not the view of who prepared the transcript ... Treat the tape itself as the evidence, not the transcript."

No one ever asked Ferguson if he had attempted to bait Mercer into issuing a bribe. Still, the fighter provided the most riveting testimony of the two-week trial. Ferguson took the witness stand the day after his wife gave birth to the couple's first child, and less than a week after getting knocked out in one round by Frank Bruno in England.

After some perfunctory background questions, Mauskopf made her move. Under direct examination, Ferguson testified, "I was offered $100,000 to go down in the fight." He later testified Mercer said, "Man, I ain't got it tonight, I'll give you $100,000 if you go down." Mauskopf then asked if "go down" had any significance in boxing. Ferguson answered, "To throw the fight."

Ferguson, a 37-year-old journeyman, said he had thought about accepting the offer. "When you're fighting and something like this happens, you can't help but think about it," he said. "My basic purse for a fight is $10,000."

The fighter spoke in a low, monotone voice throughout his testimony. He appeared to be a reluctant witness and testified that he considered Mercer a friend; he didn't want to get anyone in trouble. "No one wants to put themselves in an uncomfortable situation," said Ferguson's co-manager, Seth Braunstein. "We advised him to tell the truth and cooperate when approached by authorities."

While Ferguson's testimony was compelling, the only reference on the transcript to money was made by Ferguson when, in round five, he said, "You ain't got no money for me."

Amorosa's cross-examination of Ferguson was intense and at times comedic. He challenged the heavyweight on many aspects of the fight, to which Ferguson mostly responded, "I don't remember." After Ferguson replied "I don't remember" for what seemed like the 50th time, Amorosa bellowed, "You have an obligation to tell the truth."

Amorosa pointed out that during grand jury testimony, Ferguson said the bribe offer came "about round four." In open court, Ferguson said the first offer came in round three. Amorosa also produced interviews during which Ferguson all but exonerated Mercer. But Ferguson was one of the few witnesses who enjoyed some verbal success against the defense attorney. Amorosa loudly accused Ferguson's managers, Braunstein and Greg Cohen, of coaching the fighter from the spectators' gallery. He also suggested Ferguson had rehearsed his testimony, to which the fighter replied, "I don't have to. I was in the fight."

When Amorosa asked Ferguson how much could actually be said during a clinch, the fighter responded, "You can preach an entire sermon in a clinch."

The only light moment of the testimony came when Amorosa asked Ferguson if he was familiar with Mercer's savage knockout of Tommy Morrison. Amorosa asked, "You saw Mercer killing Morrison, didn't you?"

Seated next to defense attorney Brian Barrett, Mercer laughed, threw up his hands, and began shaking his head, as if he'd be charged with another crime. Amorosa paused and said, "Let me rephrase that."

The fight's referee, Wayne Kelly, followed Ferguson on the stand. A former fighter and Vietnam veteran, Kelly was first spotlighted

the media suggested a hearing disability
d prevent him from helping the prosecution;
e hadn't heard Mercer's alleged bribes, how
ld he corroborate Ferguson's testimony?
, who suffers from a slight high-frequency
ring loss, said the rumors stemmed from a
e made by New York State Athletic
mission Chairman Randy Gordon to a New
k boxing writer. To satisfy himself, Kelly
an exam, which revealed his hearing was
for normal conversation. The high-frequency
a result of serving in Vietnam, is less than
erent. Kelly can't even collect disability for

Kelly testified that he heard both fighters
g frequently, but could not fully understand
was being said. Amorosa asked, "Did you
Ray Mercer say to Jesse Ferguson, 'I'll give
00 if you go down'?"
Kelly replied, "No, I did not."
Amorosa then asked, "You heard no evidence
ribe in that fight, did you?"
Kelly again responded, "No, I did not."
After six days of witness testimony, the jury
d each side's closing argument. Both
cution and defense stressed that profit was
motive in the case. Mauskopf argued that
cer offered the bribe to secure his $1.5-
on fight against Bowe. She said his offers
e from a desperate man, and the conversation
e ring was "not trash-talk, but cash-talk." She
d by replaying segments of the HBO tape in
h Mercer could be heard saying, "I'll give it
u," and "I swear on my mother, man."
For his part, Amorosa weaved his defense
ne confusing theme: HBO, the Manhattan
ict Attorney's office, the New York State
n, Gordon, and Ferguson all stood to profit
m the publicity generated by the trial. He also
ued that the HBO tape played before the jury
a fraud; that Ferguson lied on the witness
d, and that whatever had been said in the ring
merely been trash-talk, with Mercer hoping
ract Ferguson so he could knock him out.
e investigation and prosecution in this case,"
id, "has been a combination of unreliability,
cisness, and perjury."
Before directing the jury to begin
berations, Atlas reiterated the importance of
onable doubt, instructing, "The prosecutor's
e must leave you with no such doubt ... if the
ecutor's proof leaves you with a reasonable
t, you must find the defendant not guilty."
re was clearly not enough evidence to convict
cer beyond a reasonable doubt, and, after
berating for more than five hours, the jury of six men and six women reached a verdict of not guilty.

When the jury forewoman announced the verdict, Mercer showed no emotion. Not even a smile. He shook hands with defense attorney Brian Barrett and stepped into the gallery, where he was greeted by a hug from his emotional mother. Finally, the fighter smiled.

"I feel very relieved," he said. "I felt pretty comfortable. I knew everyone was behind me."

Mercer, 32, said he had been confident he would be acquitted, and that he had awakened that morning with a good feeling. He also said he would begin training immediately and hoped to fight within two months of the trial. As for waiting for the verdict during the jury's deliberations, he equated it to boxing: "It was just like a decision fight. But [the waiting] was a little more intense, I can assure you of that." ■

Robert Cassidy, who covered the Mercer trial from gavel to gavel, is a frequent contributor to THE RING.

Donoghue

(Continued from page 45)

first 20 fights. The 6-foot, 153-pound converted southpaw was armed with a dangerous left hook and a fighting heart. He could box at long range or mix it up in close. In addition, he had looks, charm, and wit to go along with his boxing ability. Fighting regularly on the televised club circuit in and around New York City, he quickly developed a following. After all, good Irish clubfighters were becoming a rare commodity on the postwar New York fight scene.

By the summer of 1951, Donoghue had won 25 of 27 fights, including 14 by kayo. His only losses were to Luis Valles, a battle-scarred veteran, and a hometown decision to Connecticut's Sammy Guiliani. Donoghue rebounded from those minor setbacks and was on the verge of contender status when fate intervened. In August, before 6,000 fans at White Plains Stadium, he stopped tough local middleweight Georgie Flores in the eighth round. A rematch was scheduled for only two weeks later at Madison Square Garden. It was the semifinal to the Kid Gavilan-Billy Graham world welterweight title fight.

Donoghue again won by knockout in the eighth round. Flores never regained consciousness and died five days later.

Two months after the tragedy, Donoghue was back in the ring, but his heart was not in the fight. He won one more time, then, in January 1952, lost an eight-round decision to Red DeFazio in another Garden semifinal. It was a lackluster and disappointing effort. He was knocked down several times and took a bad beating. His manager, Bob Melnick, advised retirement. Donoghue knew Melnick was right. He no longer had the interest of desire to continue hitting people for a living. The next day he announced his retirement. His final record: 28-4 (16).

"I guess my decision to retire was probably caused by what happened in the Flores fight," Donoghue said, responding to the question somewhat reluctantly. "After the accident with Flores, my concentration was affected, maybe subconsciously. I started thinking about the day *after* the fight [as opposed to the fight itself]."

***

The year was 1954. Donoghue was working for Rheingold beer as a wholesale distributor. He was a good salesman and was leading a normal

(Continued on page 62)

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Donoghue

(Continued from page 61)

nine-to-five existence when he got the call that was to take him from hops to Hollywood. Forty years later, he recalls how it all began:

"Budd Schulberg, whom I had met years earlier at Toots Shor's restaurant, called and asked if I would come over to the Actor's Studio. He said he and Elia Kazan were doing a picture with Marlon Brando, and they wanted me to meet him. So I went over and was introduced to Brando, Lee J. Cobb, and Karl Malden. Kazan explained that Marlon was playing an ex-fighter, and they wanted me to spend some time with him."

Over the next two weeks, Donoghue took Brando to Stillman's Gym for boxing lessons, did roadwork with him around the Central Park reservoir, and spoke at length about his experiences in the ring.

"I had heard that Marlon did some sparring in the ring at Stillman's while he was doing *A Streetcar Named Desire* on Broadway," said Donoghue. "But the producers of *Waterfront* didn't want him sparring, so I moved with him upstairs to the punching bag area of Stillman's."

When the training sessions began to attract too much attention, Donoghue shifted the workouts to Brando's apartment. "Brando lived in the back of Carnegie Hall, where he had a nice small apartment," he recalled. "Nobody bothered us—outside of the chicks coming up to see him.

"I spent so many days with him and he just captured everything," continued Donoghue. "He was a good student. Everything I showed him he repeated. He threw nice short, straight right hands, and I taught him how to throw combinations."

Donoghue remembers being impressed with the actor's concentration and dedication. "I hadn't seen him in the two weeks before we started shooting on location in Hoboken, New Jersey," he said. "We started rehearsing the rooftop scene, and we were going over the combinations I had shown him when he says, 'Rog ... ' I said, 'What's the matter, Bud? [Brando's nickname].' And he says, 'Back home you finished with a left hook, and not a rig uppercut.' He was right! He had done it exact as I had done it two weeks earlier at h apartment."

When the time came to apply Brando makeup, Donoghue suggested somethin different: "They wanted to put putty on his nos like they did in all those fight movies, where the slapped putty all over the actor's face. I to Brando, 'We're going to make you look like *real* fighter.' What I did was cut two little piece of clear plastic hose and had Brando put them into his nose. The hose was hollow, so he could breathe, and it just widened his nose out, and n putty was necessary. And then I did his eyes with putty. Brando played a right-handed fighter, so said, 'Let's have a little more scar tissue over hi left eye because that's the eye that faces the opponent, and then let's put one scar over hi right eye—just like mine.' And if you look at the movie, or stills from the movie, you'll see that one eye had more scar tissue than the other."

This was heady stuff for a 24-year-old ex- prize fighter/beer salesman. And it wasn't over

(Continued on page 64)

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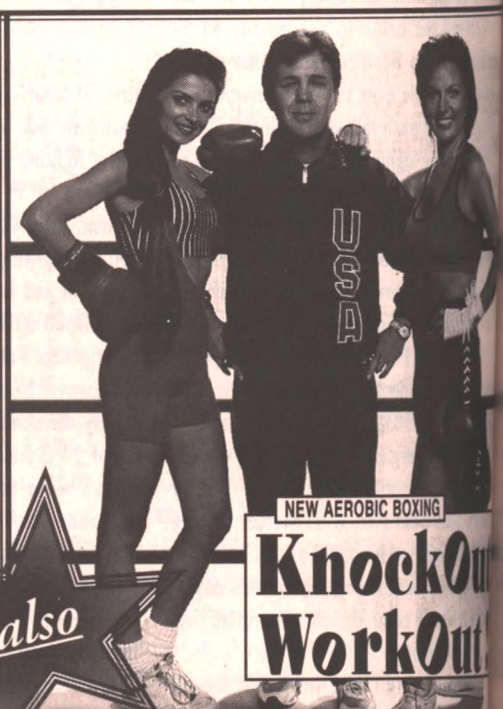

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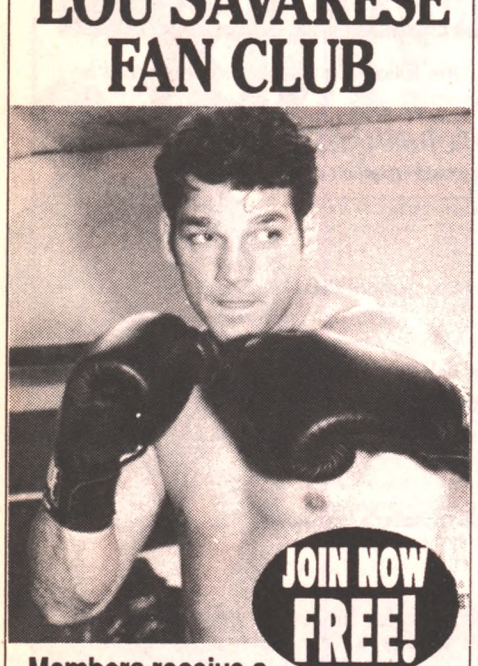

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Donoghue

(Continued from page 62)

yet. Donoghue was invited to Hollywood to accompany Brando and the cast while they made their obligatory rounds of publicity appearances, dinners, and award ceremonies leading up to the Oscars. He was there the night Brando won the Oscar for Best Actor and *Waterfront* took honors for Best Picture.

Not surprisingly, Donoghue decided to extend his stay in the almost-surreal fantasyland. He enjoyed socializing with other young Hollywood aspirants and often shared a meal with them at Schwab's Drug Store or Googie's Coffee Shop on Sunset Strip. Donoghue's main interest, however, was not in becoming an actor. (Donoghue had briefly appeared in *Waterfront* as a longshoreman.)

"I was more interested in the writing and directing aspects of the business," he said. He began a collaboration with Schulberg on a screenplay titled *8th Avenue*, a boxing story based on Donoghue's career. Nicholas Ray, one of Hollywood's hottest directors at the time, became interested in the project and hired Donoghue to be his assistant while he completed filming *Rebel Without A Cause*. Ray told him he wanted to direct *8th Avenue*, with James Dean playing Donoghue and Humphrey Bogart in the role of his manager.

"Nick invited me to have lunch with him at Romanoff's to discuss the movie," said Donoghue. "When I arrived at the restaurant, my friggin' jaw dropped. Who am I sitting with but Peter Lorre and Humphrey Bogart! That's when Nick talked to him about playing the fight manager. I remember Bogie saying what he liked about it was that they were going to shoot the whole thing in New York."

Donoghue even began giving boxing lessons to Dean. ("He was good.") The project fell apart, however, when Bogart became seriously ill and Dean was killed in a car crash.

Ray took off for Europe and Schulberg started to work on another screenplay. Donoghue remained in Hollywood, but his attempts to launch *8th Avenue* were unsuccessful. When another boxing movie, *The Harder They Fall*, went into pre-production, he let it be known that he was available as a technical adviser. But there was politics involved.

"This one guy, an ex-fighter [Johnny Indrisano, a welterweight contender in [illegible] had it all tied up," he explained. "He [illegible] contract to one of the studios, and for [illegible] the actors who portrayed boxers were [illegible] this one person, and it was all his [illegible] person was very upset that I was [illegible] Hollywood. The word had gotten out [illegible] coached Brando, so it was like I was [illegible] job away."

Finally, Donoghue, always a realist [illegible] himself, "What am I doing here?" He [illegible] bags, said his goodbyes, and returned [illegible] York.

Over the next 30-plus years, Do[illegible] forged a very successful career in the [illegible] beverage industry. Prior to his retirem[illegible] October, he was the director of draft [illegible] Coors and Canada Dry.

He has not, however, stifled his cr[illegible] Donoghue recently completed a play [illegible] *Fedora*, that tells the little-known story [illegible] friendship between bandleader Guy Lo[illegible] and jazz great Louis Armstrong in Al C[illegible] Chicago of 1928. Lombardo had been a [illegible] close friend of Donoghue's.

At the time of this interview, Donog[illegible] preparing to host Schulberg's 80th birthda[illegible] He has maintained friendships with a ma[illegible] people from the stage, screen, and literary [illegible] One of the friendships paid a great divid[illegible] was Norman Mailer who introduced Dono[illegible] his wife of 30 years, artist Fay Moore, [illegible] well-known for her impressionist art de[illegible] horseracing scenes.

And Brando? "The last time I saw him [illegible] 1972, on the set of *The Godfather*," Do[illegible] said. "I was supplying some vintage props, [illegible] from Rheingold, that were to be used [illegible] wedding scene. Brando sees me and we [illegible] talking and reminiscing about the old days w[illegible] of a sudden [director] Francis Coppola com[illegible] and says, 'What are you doing? Who are you [illegible] are you bothering us? This is costing us $[illegible] minute!' And Brando says, 'Wait a minute, [illegible] my friend Roger, and we're talking Hoboke[illegible] was Brando's last great line with me."

And the last great question: Could D[illegible] indeed have been a contender?

"No," answered the man who taught [illegible] Malloy how to fight. "I'd say he could have [illegible] a good clubfighter."

As Roger Donoghue has proved, you [illegible] have to be a contender to have class.

Michael Silver, a frequent contribu[illegible] THE RING, is a freelance writer based i[illegible] York City.

Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

Some folks, jaded by new fight memorabilia and discouraged by the relatively high prices of items relating to heavyweight champions, have turned to collecting material from non-champions. Such fighters not only contributed to the fabric of the game, but are also a challenge to collect.

Among the fighters never to hold a world title, Young Stribling is probably the most collected. Just why he is revered is somewhat of a mystery. One thing is for sure: Stribling is a legend.

Born in 1904, in Macon, Georgia, W.L. "Young" Stribling was one of the few truly gifted white fighters to emerge from the South in the '20s. His matinee good looks and carnival family, as well as his hobby of flying airplanes, made him good press, and ensured that in his short, eventful life, Stribling would leave behind many mementos.

At first, Stribling was managed by his "Pa" and trained by his "Ma." He fought in every weight division, from age 10 in the carnival to his first pro fight at 17 (at 117 pounds), to challenging for the heavyweight title in 1931. He died in a motorcycle accident in 1933 at age 29.

Stribling fought 286 times as a pro, winning 127 by kayo and 106 by decision, losing 12 decisions, and suffering only one knockout. He also fought 25 no-decision bouts. Here is a partial list of his opponents: Mike McTigue, Tommy Loughran, Paul Berlenbach, Jimmy Slattery, Johnny Risko, Jack Sharkey, Primo Carnera, Otto Von Porat, Phil Scott, Tuffy Griffiths, Ernie Schaaf, and Max Schmeling. Only Schmeling could knock him out. That was in the 15th round of Stribling's only heavyweight title shot. He lost to Loughran and Berlenbach in light heavyweight title fights.

Stribling's failure to win a title didn't hurt his popularity. He was a terrific all-around athlete and charming beyond belief. When he passed away, his body lay in state at the Macon Auditorium for six hours, with approximately 35,000 coming to mourn.

Maybe it was his untimely death, coupled with his record, but there are quite a few advanced collectors who treasure Stribling memorabilia. Autographed photos sell for about $200. Programs of his fights range from $75-250 for the Carnera and Schmeling fights. A poster recently sold for $600 at auction, but it should have brought more. Stribling appears on old penny arcade cards and on the small strip cards that were given away at candy counters in the '20s. These will sell from $1-7. Original photos of Stribling can also be found. These sell from $5-10 each.

As you may have guessed, I am a Stribling collector. I have managed over a period of 14 years to acquire only a half-dozen or so programs, a few ticket stubs, and a signed photo. I have maybe a dozen original photos. I have looked for years for a signed glove. (I know of only one.) I have never seen any authentic fight-worn equipment. The stuff is out there, but it is a challenge to find.

By the way, if you're intrigued by Stribling, *King Of The Canebrakes,* by Jimmy Jones, is a great biography and a fairly quick read. It can be picked up from sports memorabilia dealers for about $10. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collector's News and may be contacted through THE RING.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of March

WBA as of February

IBF as of March

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	2	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	3	3
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	–	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	–	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	5	7	11
Corrie Sanders (SA)	6	9	6
Frank Bruno (GB)	7	12	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	8	–	5
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	10	11	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	4	4
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	5	7
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	13	6	–
Alex Stewart (JAM)	18	8	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	11	10	9
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	8
Buster Mathis (USA)	16	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	5	8
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	10	–
Carl Thompson (GB)	3	12	12
Kenny Keene (USA)	4	8	11
Robert Daniels (USA)	5	6	9
Jade Scott (USA)	6	–	7
Adolpho Washington (USA)	7	–	4
Bobby Czyz (USA)	8	2	–
Michael Gale (GB)	9	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	10	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	16	1	3
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	6
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
James Warring (USA)	13	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	18	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	17	–	2
Richard Mason (USA)	20	–	5
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Mike McCallum (JAM)	1	4	6
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	12	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	4	9	3
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	5	5	7
Charles Williams (USA)	6	–	2
Ernest Mateen (USA)	7	–	9
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	8	7	5
Maurice Core (GB)	9	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	10	3	8
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	11	6	11
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	–	8	1
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	10	–
John Scully (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	1	6
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	11	9
Michael Nunn (USA)	3	3	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	4	2	2
Ray Close (GB)	5	–	7
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	6	10	8
Tony Thornton (USA)	7	–	5
Thulane Malinga (SA)	8	–	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	9	–	–
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	24	4	12
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	5	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	6	–
James Cook (GB)	16	7	–
Tim Littles (USA)	13	8	1
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	9	–
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	4
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	1	6
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	7	1
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	11
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	4	–	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	5	–	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	6	10	–
Neville Brown (GB)	7	–	9
Roberto Duran (PAN)	8	9	12
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	9	5	1
Reggie Johnson (USA)	10	2	7
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	3	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	–	4	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	14	6	4
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	18	8	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	12	11	5
Joe Lipsey (USA)	11	12	11
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Simon Brown (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	8	3
Ronald Wright (USA)	2	1	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	3	3	11
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	–	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	5	6	4
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	6	4	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	8	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	9	–	1
Aaron Davis (USA)	10	2	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	28	5	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	7	–
Ahmat Dottuev (RUS)	27	9	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	22	10	2
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	6
John Montes (USA)	16	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	18	–	–

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
James McGirt (USA)	2	10	1
Oba Carr (USA)	3	11	–
Larry Barnes (USA)	4	7	–
Gary Jacobs (GB)	5	6	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	6	9	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	7	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	8	–	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	9	4	–
Hector Camacho (PR)	10	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	1	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	2	–
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	–	3	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	11	5	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	8	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	16	–	–
Harold Brazier (USA)	12	–	–

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frankie Randall (USA)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
David Kamau (USA)	2	9	–

…Tszyu (AUSTRL)	3	–	1
…Holligan (GB)	4	11	–
…Camacho (USA)	5	–	–
…Lopez (USA)	6	–	–
…Haugen (USA)	7	–	–
…Gonzalez (MEX)	8	–	–
…Lopez (MEX)	9	–	–
…Merle (FRA)	10	2	–
…Cortes (ARG)	–	3	–
…rgman (SA)	–	4	–
…Gonzalez (COL)	–	5	–
…Garza (USA)	–	6	–
…Park (KOR)	–	7	–
…Pineda (COL)	11	8	9
…East (PHIL)	–	10	–
…Sanchez (DR)	–	–	2
…Moore (USA)	24	–	3
…Murray (USA)	23	–	4
…Padilla (COL)	–	–	5
…Hernandez (PR)	–	–	6
…Tyson (USA)	20	–	7
…Mayweather (USA)	19	–	8
…Scott (USA)	21	–	10

…WEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
…Orzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
…Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
…Johnson (USA)	1	3	2
…Mendy (FRA)	2	5	4
…Julio (COL)	3	8	1
…Marchena (MEX)	4	–	–
…wer (GB)	5	–	12
…ez (MEX)	6	–	–
…Rocha (COL)	7	–	–
…Mitchell (USA)	8	2	7
…Silva (ARG)	9	–	–
…Pendleton (USA)	10	–	3
…ache (USA)	–	1	–
…Tejeda (ARG)	–	4	–
…Thobela (SA)	14	6	8
…pez (USA)	–	7	9
…ith (USA)	19	9	11
…Molina (COL)	24	10	5
…Marimon (COL)	–	–	6
…gan (USA)	–	–	10

…HTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
…Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
…Molina (PR)	–	–	C
…Ruelas (USA)	1	4	4
…Leija (USA)	2	–	–
…rove (USA)	3	–	2
…Garcia (COL)	4	–	–
…ma (FRA)	5	6	7
…Tuur (HOLL)	6	–	10
…(CAN)	7	–	–
…(USA)	8	8	5
…Paz (ARG)	9	3	–
…Garnett (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
…Guevara (VEN)	21	1	–
…Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
…Warren (USA)	17	5	–
…Choi (KOR)	25	7	–
…Rodriguez (DR)	14	9	1
…rphy (USA)	–	10	–
…Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
…De La Hoya (USA)	–	–	6
…rgas (MEX)	–	–	8
…Speed (USA)	11	–	9

…ERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
…(VEN)	–	C	–
…son (USA)	–	–	C
…(MEX)	1	–	–
…Arrozal (PHIL)	2	6	4
…(COL)	3	–	2
…Zarraga (USA)	4	–	–
…(PHIL)	5	7	12
…Segura (USA)	6	11	1
…(USA)	7	–	3
…Park (KOR)	8	2	–
…Ramos (DR)	9	–	–
…pinoza (USA)	10	–	–
…(COL)	–	1	–
…son (GB)	20	3	–
…(JAP)	–	4	–

Jesse James Leija (USA)	–	5	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	8	6
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Stephane Haccoun (FRA)	23	10	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	7
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	8
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	9
Ole Kiatwanway (THAI)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	3
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	–	7
Jesse Benavides (USA)	5	7	–
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	6	–	–
Richard Duran (USA)	7	–	–
Rudy Zavala (USA)	8	11	11
Jose Badillo (PR)	9	–	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	10	6	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	26	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	14	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	3	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	20	4	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	5	1
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	16	8	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	9	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	12	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	2
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	19	–	5
Cesar Soto (MEX)	–	–	6
Jose Rincones (VEN)	22	–	8
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	9
Cesar Polanco (DR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	12	8
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	3	10	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	4	1	3
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	6	9	12
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	7	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	2	–
John Armour (GB)	9	–	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	10	–	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	11	3	10
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	5
Abraham Torres (VEN)	27	5	9
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	7	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	8	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Harold Mestre (COL)	13	11	2
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	20	–	6
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	28	–	7

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	1	–	6
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	2	5	–
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	3	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	4	7	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	5	–	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	6	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	7	9	–
Adrian Ochoa (ARG)	8	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	9	2	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	3	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	6	–
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	8	–
Ivan Morales (PR)	–	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3

Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	21	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Jaji Sibali (SA)	24	–	7
John Johnson (USA)	12	–	8
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	9
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	10

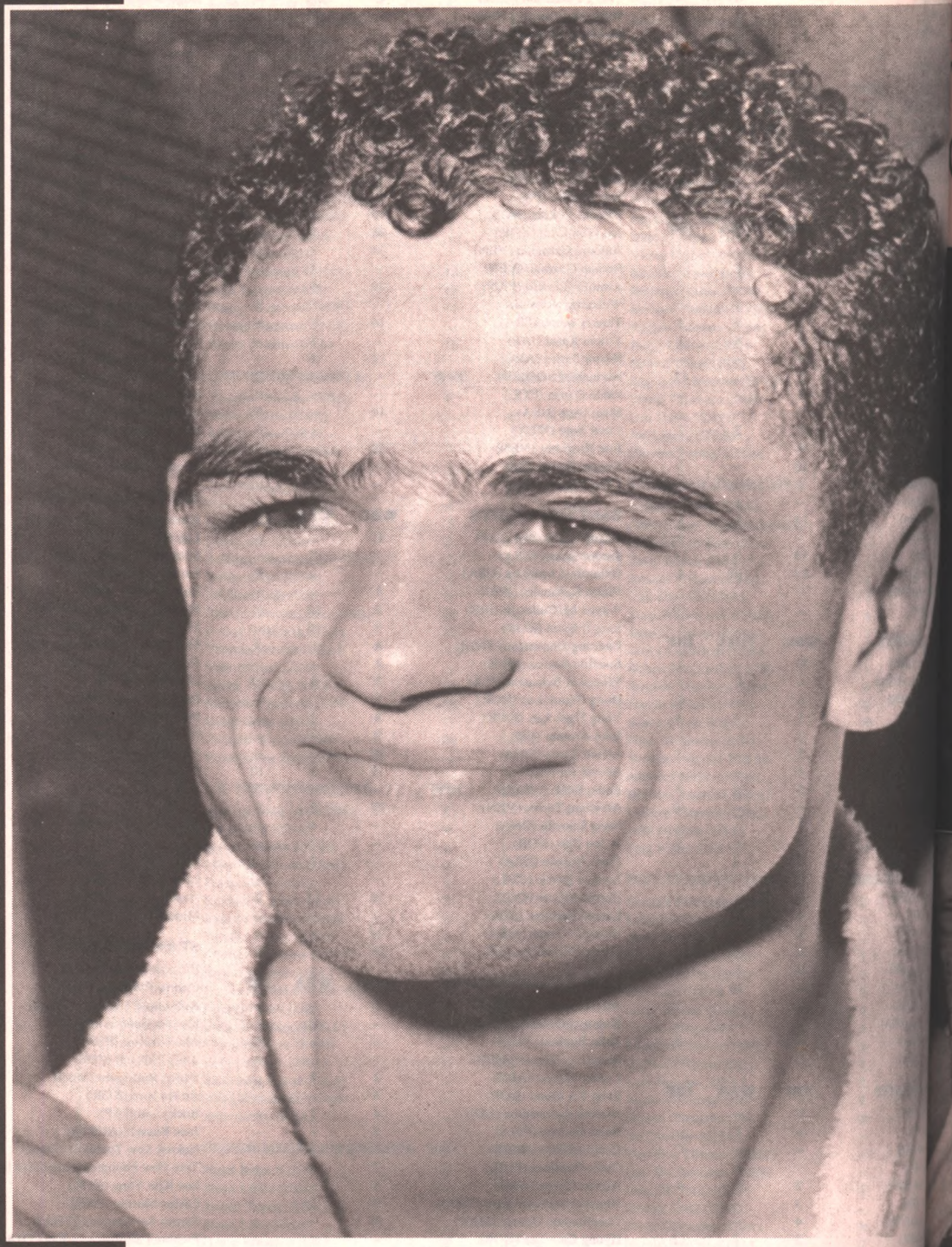
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Chatchai Eric-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	7
Mark Johnson (USA)	5	–	3
Danny Nunez (DR)	6	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	7	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	8	–	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	9	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	26	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	2	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	3	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	4	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	24	5	–
David Griman (VEN)	19	6	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	22	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	17	–	2
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	4
Robbie Regan (GB)	13	11	5
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	6
Danny Romero (USA)	12	–	8
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	23	–	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	3	1
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	6	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	8	7
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	6	–	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	7	4	2
Okon Kim (KOR)	8	11	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	–	–
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	10	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	17	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	23	2	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	13	5	11
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	24	7	5
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	11	9	10
Yong Jim Kim (KOR)	20	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	4
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	6
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Marcos Pacheco (MEX)	28	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Kermin Guardia (COL)	1	4	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	2	5	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	4	3	1
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	5	2	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	6	–	12
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Naknoi Sow Thanikul (THAI)	8	–	–
Toto Pow Phongasawang (THAI)	9	–	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	10	7	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	18	1	9
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	16	6	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	27	8	2
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	–	9	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	10	–
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	3
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	5
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	28	11	6
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	8
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

ALPHONSE HALIMI ...



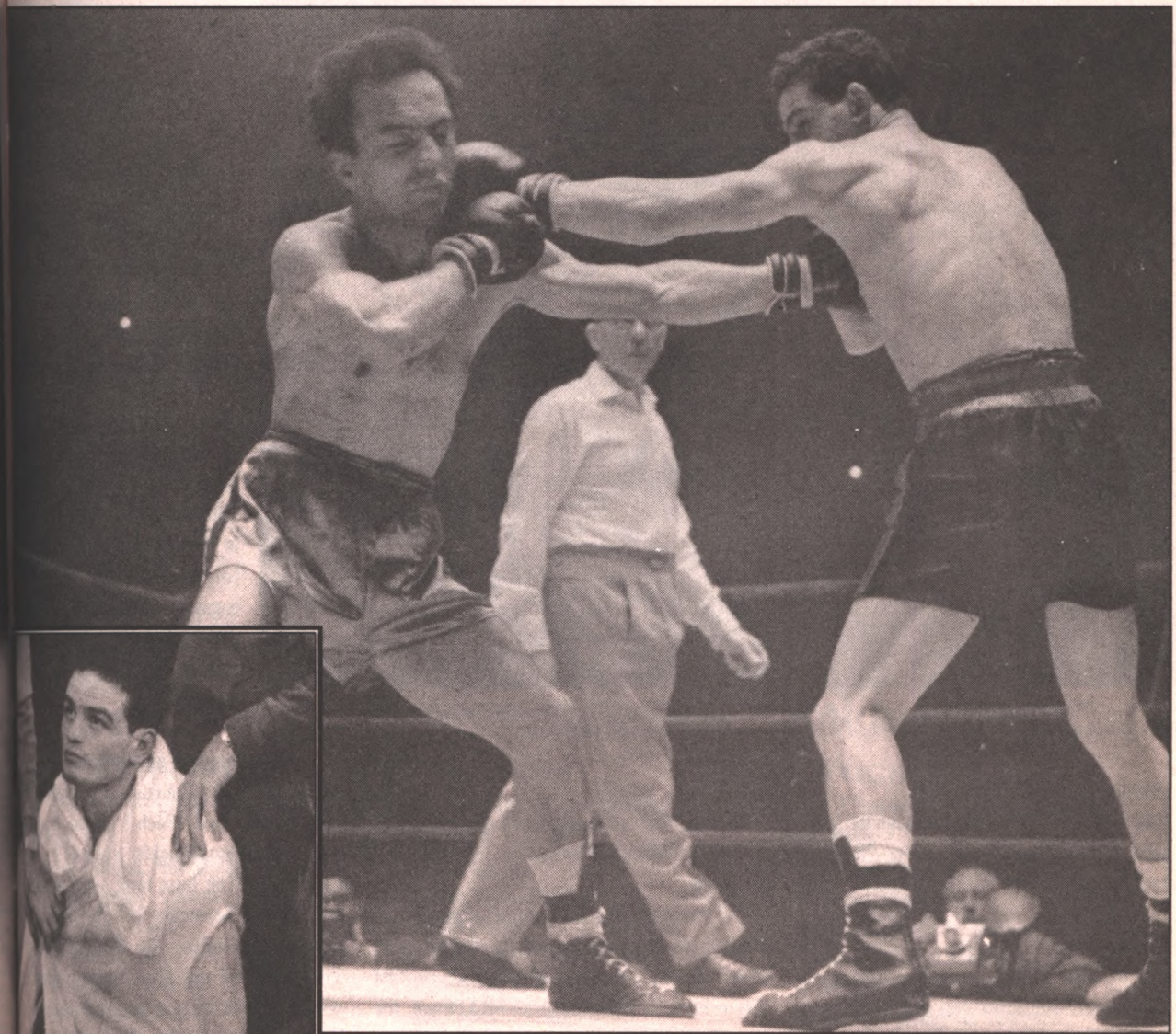
From THE RING, March 1958

HIS RECORD UNIQU

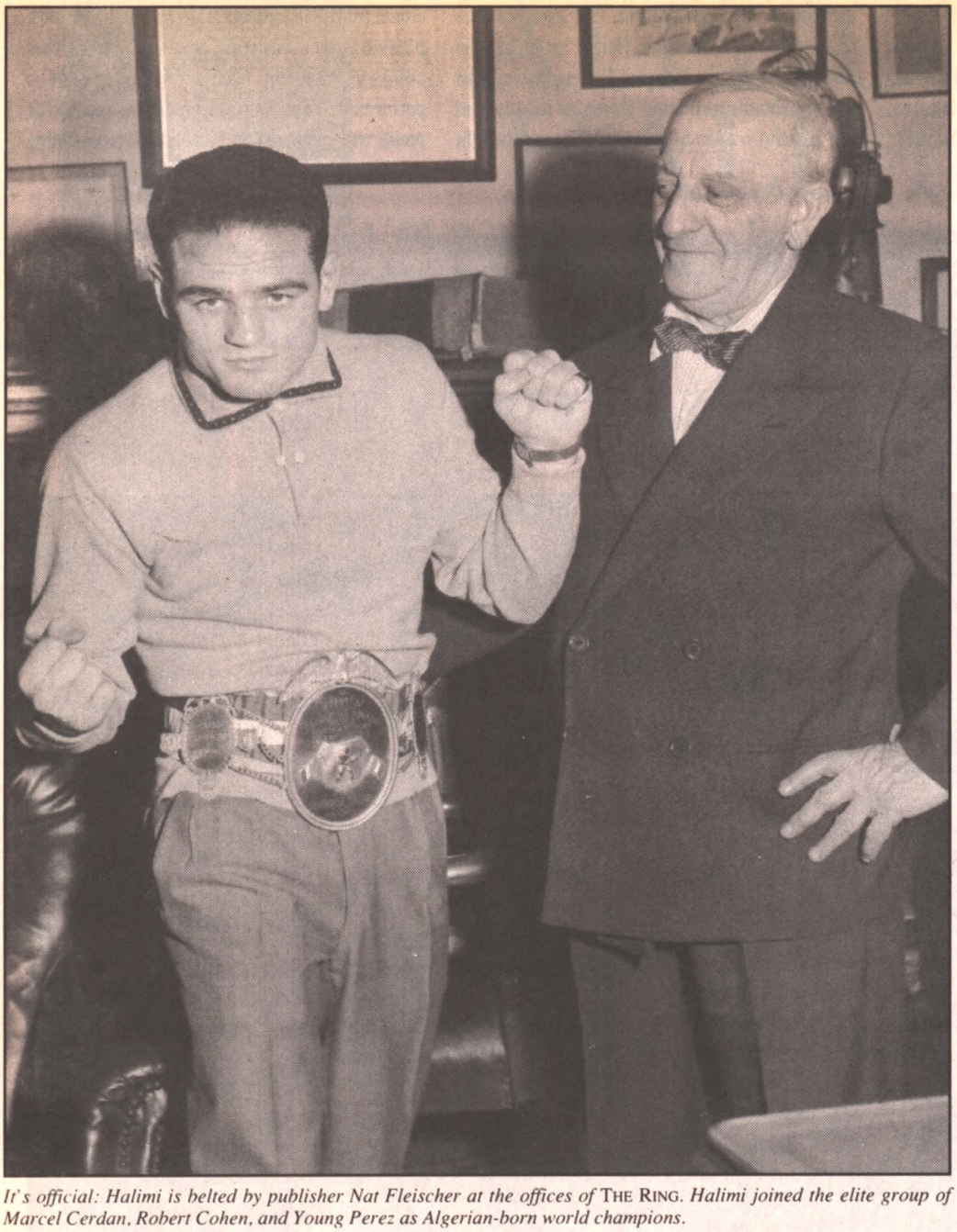
By Nat Fleischer

The recent victory of Alphonse Halimi, French-Algerian, over Raul (Raton) Macias of Mexico, in Los Angeles, revived memories of famous Frenchmen, particularly of Algerian birth, who gained niches in the fistic Hall of Fame. Halimi set at rest the dispute between the National Boxing Association and the European Boxing Union as to who was the rightful owner of the world bantamweight crown by gaining the decision in one of the most pleasing bantamweight bouts staged in this country in many years. So excellent a performance did Halimi give that countrywide praise was showered on him such as few visiting

His Rise From A Penniless Boy To A "Millionaire" In Two Years Is Proud Achievement Of Bantam King—One Of Four French-Algerian World Champions



Halimi won the world bantamweight title in April 1957 by outboxing Italy's Mario D'Agata (above) and surviving a bizarre occurrence: Nearing the end of the third round, the lights above the ring exploded, sending showers of sparks and balls of fire toward the combatants. After a 20-minute delay, during which Halimi waited patiently in his corner (left), the action continued.



It's official: Halimi is belted by publisher Nat Fleischer at the offices of THE RING. *Halimi joined the elite group of Marcel Cerdan, Robert Cohen, and Young Perez as Algerian-born world champions.*

boxers have received in recent years.

One's thoughts drifted back through the years to other top French ringmen whose American campaigns contributed colorful chapters to the archives of Fistiana. It hardly seems that only a half-century ago boxing was pioneered in the land of the fleur-de-lis by crusading Americans. Prior to that, the sport was practically an exclusive U.S. and British product, but once the seed was sown by such famous ring stars as Willie and Harry Lewis, Sam Langford, Joe Jeannette, Sam McVey, Billy Papke, Frank Klaus, and Jack Johnson, among others, it didn't take long to become the most popular pastime in France.

I recall Willie Lewis, when discussing the arrival of Marcel Cerdan in our country, remarking:

"It was amazing how rapidly the French grasped the rudiments of boxing. It seemed to come naturally with them. When I made my first trip to Paris in 1908 with Dan McKettrick, the sport was still far in its infancy. It was just beginning to take hold, yet within two years there were several dozen top boxers among the Frenchmen."

The development of Georges Carpentier unquestionably had much to do with popularizing the sport in France. Georges, a skinny-looking youngster, c flyweight at the time McKettrick brought Ame boxers to France, was less tha pounds when he began a caree led him through every division flyweight through heavyweigh held the title in each class.

France had produced man men in the past three dec among them a number of Alge who have come to the front to the play away from their fe Frenchmen on the Euro Continent. Outstanding are M Cerdan, who lost his life i airplane mishap; Young Pe Robert Cohen, and Halimi, eac whom became a world champ We may add to them the nam Cherif Hamia, now ranked number-one contender for w featherweight honors. Cohen h the bantam championship, a cr now adorning the head of Hal and Cerdan won the middlewe title from Tony Zale.

Cerdan, born at Bel-Abb Algeria, stopped Zale in 12 rou on September 21, 1948, to win title, and lost it to Jake LaMotta June 16, 1949. Marcel was stopp in the 10th round. It was while route to America for a retu engagement with Jake that Marce plane struck a mountainside in a f and crashed in the Azores, killing aboard it.

Cohen was born at B Algeria, on November 15, 193 was at Bangkok, Thailand, in a contest wh had arranged and which I judged, that R won the championship vacated by Jim Carruthers. The bout took place in a dri rainstorm on September 19, 1954, before 60 persons, including the King and Queen Thailand, and the Thai cabinet, with Ca winning the decision at the end of 15 rounds bloody, hard-fought affair with Cham Songkitrat.

Halimi was born in Constantine, Alg February 18, 1932. As an amateur he rolled splendid record in a total of 189 bouts. He the French bantam title in 1953, '54, and '55

-Mediterranean crown before turning pro 5.

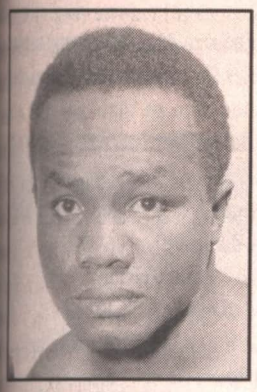
was on April 1, 1957, in the Palais des s of Paris, that he gained a 15-round n over Mario D'Agata to win the world championship. He received recognition every organization that controls boxing the NBA, which held out for Macias, and on November 6, 1957, Halimi became the undisputed champ.

The first Algerian to win a world crown was Young Perez, who fought between 1928 and 1937, and died in a German prison camp in 1942.

Perez, after clinching the French flyweight championship in 1930, gained international recognition as world titleholder when he knocked out Frankie Genaro of New York, the NBA's banner bearer, in two rounds. The bout was staged in Paris, under the auspices of the EBU. At the time there were several claimants to the throne, Midget Wolgast and Genaro among them, and the Paris bout ended the confusion.

Of the quartet of Algerian crown wearers, three are listed in the two lower divisions.

THE RING RATINGS, *March 1958*



Hogan "Kid" Bassey

AVYWEIGHTS
rld Champ: Floyd Patterson, ooklyn, NY

1. Eddie Machen, Redding, CA
2. Zora Folley, Chandler, AZ
3. Willie Pastrano, New Orleans, LA
4. Roy Harris, Cut and Shoot, TX
5. Pat McMurtry, Tacoma, WA
6. Nino Valdes, Cuba
7. Mike DeJohn, Syracuse, NY
8. Wayne Bethea, New York, NY
9. Alex Miteff, Argentina
10. Ingemar Johansson, Sweden

HT HEAVYWEIGHTS
rld Champ: Archie Moore, Diego, CA

1. Harold Johnson, Philadelphia, PA
2. Yolande Pompey, Trinidad
3. Yvon Durelle, Canada
4. Tony Anthony, New York, NY
5. Willi Hoepner, Germany
6. Artenio Calzavara, Italy
7. Chuck Spieser, Lansing, MI
8. Clarence Hinnant, Washington, D.C.
9. Gerhard Hecht, Germany
10. Erich Schoppner, Germany

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carmen Basilio, Syracuse, NY

1. Ray Robinson, New York, NY
2. Gene Fullmer, West Jordan, UT
3. Ellsworth (Spider) Webb, Chicago, IL
4. Joey Giardello, Philadelphia, PA
5. Charley Humez, France
6. Rory Calhoun, White Plains, NY
7. Joey Giambra, San Francisco, CA
8. Bobby Boyd, Chicago, IL
9. Charley Joseph, New Orleans, LA
10. Willie Vaughn, Los Angeles, CA

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Virgil Akins, St. Louis, MO
2. Isaac Logart, Cuba
3. Vince Martinez, Paterson, NJ
4. Charley (Tombstone) Smith, Los Angeles, CA
5. Tony DeMarco, Boston, MA
6. Gil Turner, Philadelphia, PA
7. Gaspar Ortega, Mexico
8. Kid Gavilan, Cuba
9. George Barnes, Australia
10. Garnet (Sugar) Hart, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, New Orleans, LA

1. Duilio Lo, Italy
2. Kenny Lane, Muskegon, MI
3. Ralph Dupas, New Orleans, LA
4. Willie Toweel, South Africa
5. Paolo Rosi, New York, NY
6. Joe Lopes, Sacramento, CA
7. Baby Vasquez, Mexico
8. Al Nevarez, Mexico
9. Orlando Zulueta, Cuba
10. Johnny Busso, New York, NY

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hogan (Kid) Bassey, Nigeria

1. Cherif Hamia, France
2. Davey Moore, Springfield, OH
3. Flash Elorde, Philippines
4. Paul Jorgensen, Port Arthur, TX
5. Ike Chestnut, New York, NY
6. Ricardo Gonzalez, Argentina
7. Ricardo Moreno, Mexico
8. Jean Sneyers, Belgium
9. Shigeji Kaneko, Japan
10. Gracieux Lamperti, France

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alphonse Halimi, France

1. Raul (Raton) Macias, Mexico
2. Mario D'Agata, Italy
3. Leo Espinosa, Philippines
4. Al Asuncion, Philippines
5. Jose Lopez, Mexico
6. Piero Rollo, Italy
7. Manuel Armenteros, Cuba
8. Joe Becerra, Mexico
9. Eugene LeCozannet, France
10. Peter Keenan, Scotland

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. Ramon Arias, Venezuela
2. Young Martin, Spain
3. Pone Kingpetch, Thailand
4. Dommy Ursua, Philippines
5. Aristide Pozzali, Italy
6. Ramon Calatayud, Venezuela
7. Masaji (Lefty) Iwamoto, Japan
8. Sadao Yaoita, Japan
9. Memo Diez, Mexico
10. Dennis Adams, South Africa

Halimi passed a stern test in his first defense, a split decision over NBA champion Raton Macias in Los Angeles in November 1957. Mexican hero Macias had reigned for almost three years.

Hamia, who was stopped by Hogan Bassey on June 24 in the contest that brought the world featherweight title to Nigeria, was born in Guergou, Algeria, on March 23, 1931. Though he was halted in the final of the elimination tournament to obtain a successor to Sandy Saddler, who had retired, he may yet bring another crown to his native land.

The triumph of Halimi over Macias, which earned for the bantam king the 179th RING championship belt, has created a new interest in boxing throughout France. The champion is the youngest of 13 children, of which there are seven survivors. He is single, and managed by Philippe Filippi.

Like almost all the good boxers of France, Halimi was well-developed, as far as boxers go, before he became a pro. Most of the French lads, realizing they must serve in the army, take up amateur boxing and don't turn to the money-chasing field until after their discharge from the service. That's why so many don't get underway before they have reached beyond the 20th birthday.

When he arrived in this country to take off in Los Angeles for his fight with Macias, the boxing writers had him as their guest at a special luncheon at which he received THE RING's belt. He was asked how many fights he had engaged in as an amateur, and he replied: "I don't know exactly. I think it numbers 189. But there is one fight I do recall very vividly."

Asked to tell about it, he said:

"I was in the finals of an amateur tournament the night after Marcel Cerdan, my boxing hero, was killed in the Azores. The announcer asked for two minutes of silence following a eulogy paid to my idol, Cerdan. I stood in the ring at attention, and when the gong sounded for the fight to begin, I was in a daze.

"'Alphonse,' shouted Filippe, 'get going.'

"I rushed forward, let one punch go. I struck my opponent with force on the jaw. He toppled over at my feet. The fight was over."

Halimi is a stablemate of Charley Humez, contender for the world middleweight title, Hamia. He is a lad of culture, has a handsome appearance, and is dedicated to his profession.

"How long will you continue to box?" he was asked when he visited THE RING headquarters.

"Until I make enough money out of boxing to stamp out the memories of poverty from my childhood days."

Asked to discuss those days, Halimi continued.

"When I was a boy, I had no bed on which to sleep. Nor did any of my brothers or sisters. We all had to sleep on the hard floor because our parents were poor.

"It was not until after I turned professional that I knew what it meant to have a square meal regularly and to sleep as most people do—in a bed with a mattress and pillows."

The next query fired at him: How did he decide to make boxing his vocation? To this

fied with a laugh.

"I ran away from home when I was only about 10 years old, but I remember it well. I walked from my home in Constantine for many miles, and it wasn't long after that journey that I became involved in a street fight. I had many more in the years following, and I gained quite a reputation as a street fighter. I then learned tailoring, and if I say so myself, I can do a good job at that in an emergency."

Manager Filippe interrupted to say, "He is quite an accomplished tailor. He can get a job in the best shops. He is very proud of his prowess with needle and thread."

To which Halimi added with a grin, "Yes. I have made many of my own suits, and when you come back to Paris, if you want me to make one for you, give me the material."

During their army service, Hamia and Halimi were in the same outfit, a medical unit. Hamia was a medic who carried a stretcher and bandages, and Halimi drove a truck.

After defeating Macias, Halimi is embraced by his foster mother, Marcelle Hamia. The champion ran away from home at age 10 and learned to fight on the streets. His rise to champion was not your typical story.

"Whenever we went out on maneuvers, our comrades would tease us," said Halimi. "One day one of our outfit stepped in front of my truck and got injured. Hamia took care of his leg wound and placed him in the truck for me to take him to the camp's medical quarters. From that time on our comrades would laughingly shout every time we were out on maneuvers, 'Get the truck and bandages ready. Halimi will knock us down so that Hamia can bandage us and get his practice.'"

The Halimi story is truly a Horatio Alger rags-to-riches yarn.

"I never dreamed I would earn enough money to be classed in my country a millionaire," Halimi said when discussing the record guarantee he received for the fight with Macias. "Fifty-thousand dollars is a fortune in any man's language, but to a lad who only two years ago was practically penniless, it definitely places him into the millionaire class."

Never in the history of boxing has a bantamweight received such a huge guarantee for a single contest. Halimi's bout with Macias was a historic one in more ways than one. ■

The Cover: What will be the fate of heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson, pictured knocking out Archie Moore? Patterson and manager Cus D'Amato, who are at war with the IBC, may be forced to look to England to find an available contender. In his last defense, Patterson kayoed Olympic gold medalist Pete Rademacher, who was making his pro debut.

The Other Side Of Basilio: Managing Editor Nat Loubet takes an intimate look at middleweight champion Carmen Basilio, who was THE RING'S 1957 Fighter of the Year. The up-close-and-personal photos include Basilio hunting with co-manager Joe Netro, relaxing on his fishing boat, and bowling in tie and dress pants. Pictured: Basilio with wife Kay.

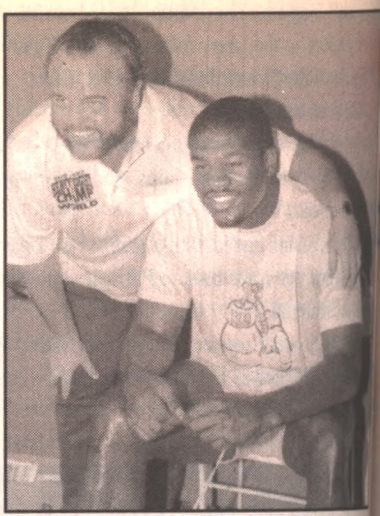
A Fighting Family: Murray Goodman profiles the Fighting DeJohns, a family of seven brothers, six with boxing experience. The most promising of the clan is Mike (pictured), a 27-year-old heavyweight who gained a world rating by knocking out contender Alex Miteff in one round.

Winning Gambles: Jersey Jones examines the world champions who secured their title tries by agreeing to paltry purses. The prime example: Archie Moore, who was paid only training expenses for his 1952 challenge of light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim. Since then, Moore has earned more than $1-million in purses. Pictured: Moore vs. Nino Valdes.

Fighter Of The Month: Welterweight contender Vince Martinez is honored for his 12-round points victory over Gil Turner in Philadelphia. With middleweight king Carmen Basilio having vacated the 147-pound title, Martinez is in prime position to survive an elimination tournament.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Are Newman and Bowe headed for the WBO?

WBOwe?

Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe doesn't want to play the ratings game. At a press conference announcing Bowe's three-fight deal with HBO (June 11 vs. Buster Mathis Jr., and July 15 and August 13 against opponents to be named), Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, lauded the WBO and made sure to introduce its president, Jose Torres, who just happened to be in attendance. Newman then acknowledged Bowe may fight WBO champion Herbie Hide in the fall.

Bowe's ultimate goal, of course, is to regain the world championship, or at least the WBA and IBF's version. But a mandatory title shot could take a couple of years to materialize. The WBC doesn't rate Bowe among its top 30 heavyweights, presumably because "Big Daddy" publicly tossed Jose Sulaiman's belt into a garbage can after dethroning Evander Holyfield in 1992. As we went to press, the WBA and IBF both ranked Bowe fourth, behind Michael Moorer, Oliver McCall, and Tony Tucker.

"That's strictly corrupt boxing politics," says Newman.

If Bowe sweeps his summer series, fans will call for him to fight Holyfield, Moorer, or WBC champion Lennox Lewis. But Dan Duva promotes all three of those heavyweights, and given his feelings for Newman, he'd like nothing better than to make Rock suffer.

Perhaps Bowe will try a different route and seek to provide the WBO with some much-needed credibility. Now *that's* a heavyweight-sized challenge.

Carbajal won't wait for Chiquita

CHIQUITA-CARBAJAL: THE RUBBER MATCH

Danny Carbajal, brother and manager of former WBC/IBF junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal, told us a third match against Chiquita Gonzalez is a strong possibility for September. In the meantime, Carbajal, who will appear on a July 15 pay-per-view card in Phoenix, will consider other options.

"I don't know whether Chiquita wants [a rubber match] or not," said Danny.

In April, Carbajal weighed a comfortable and career-high 112 for a kayo victory over Abel Barajas. Danny says his brother can still make 105 and might drop to strawweight "just to win another title." A third option is a title fight vs. WBA champion Leo Gamez.

And if Gonzalez-Carbajal III materializes?

"There's nothing different Michael can do if Chiquita runs again," Danny says. "Just apply pressure and bully him. He knows Michael is stronger. That knockout [scored by Carbajal in their first fight] is never going to go away."

LISTEN UP...

Look for **Oscar De La Hoya** to square off with **Jorge Paez** this summer ... WBA middleweight king **David Jackson** signed a promotional contract with Garden State Boxing. Good move for the champ, who's invisible winning the title from **Reggie Johnson** last October, and has been invisible since ... The IBF's most champions includes no Colombians, but that should change. The IBF ranks Colombians in the top five of all divisions from junior welterweight to mini flyweight (strawweight). What's most interesting is that of those ranked fighters, only one, lightweight **Miguel Julio**, is rated in THE RING.

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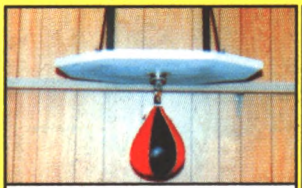

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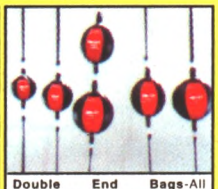

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